SHONEN JUMP MANGA

vol. 18

# NISEKOI

## False Love

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

When I look something up, I often wind up reading about stuff totally unrelated to my original question. The other day, I found myself reading about intestinal blockages and the compound armor on military tanks. What was I thinking?

NAOSHI KOMI was born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan, on March 28, 1986. His first serialized work in *Weekly Shonen Jump* was the series *Double Arts*. His current series, *Nisekoi*, is serialized in *Weekly Shonen Jump*.

# NISEKOI:
## False Love
### VOLUME 18
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

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# NISEKOI

## False Love

vol. 18: Attack

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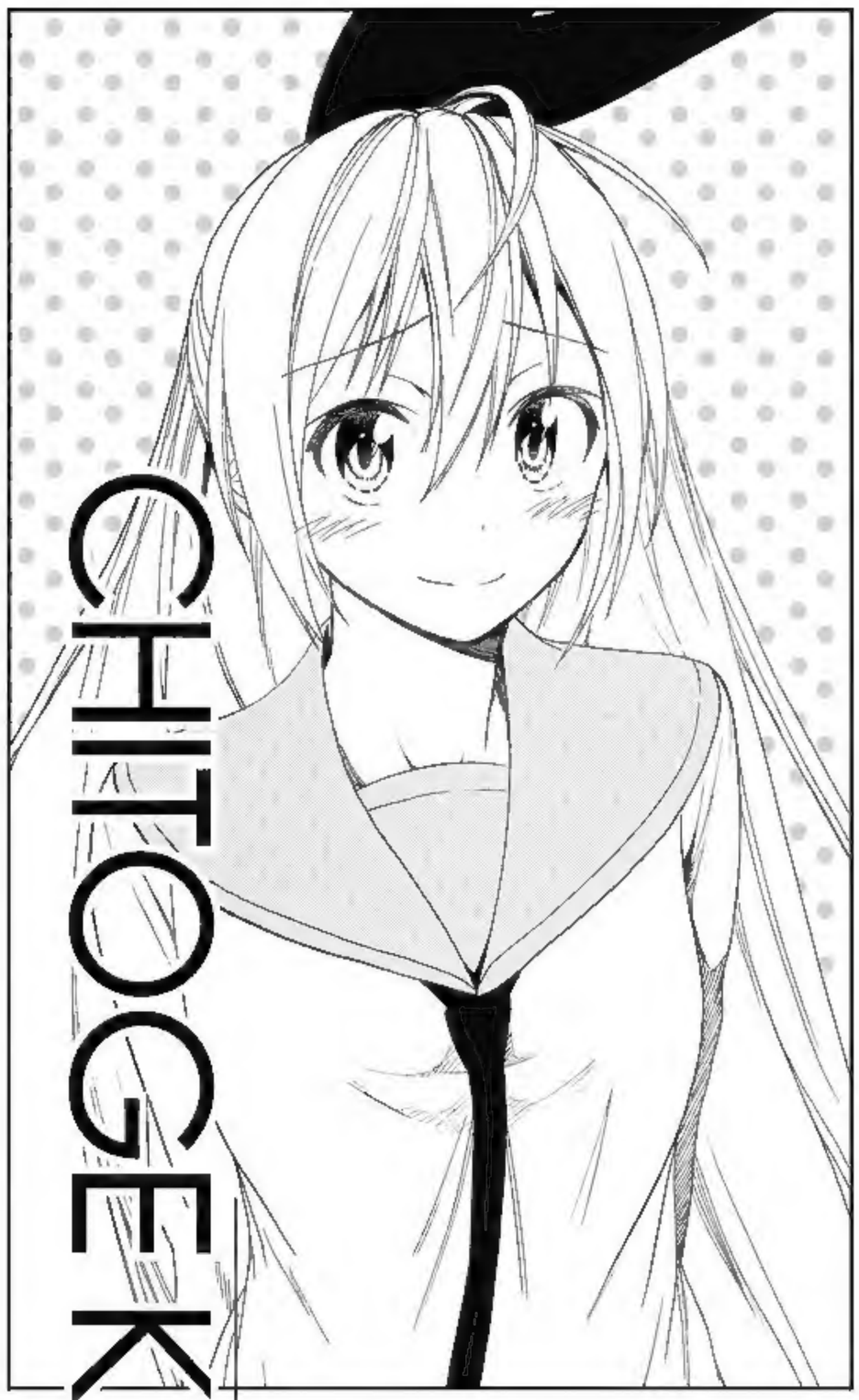


## CHITOGE KIRISAKI

A half-Japanese bombshell with stellar athletic abilities. Short-tempered and violent. Comes from a family of gangsters.

## KOSAKI ONODERA

A girl Raku has a crush on. Beautiful and sweet, Kosaki has no shortage of admirers. She's a terrible cook but makes food that *looks* amazing.

## RAKUICHIJO

A normal teen whose family happens to be yakuza. Cherishes a pendant given to him by a girl he met ten years ago.

## SHU MAIKO

Raku's best friend is outgoing and girl-crazy.

## RURI MIYAMOTO

Kosaki's best gal pal. Comes off as aloof, but is actually a devoted and highly intuitive friend.

## YUI KANAKURA

A childhood friend of Raku's, Yui is the head of a Chinese mafia gang and the homeroom teacher of Raku's class at his school. She is currently staying at Raku's house and also has a special key linked to some kind of promise...

## MARIKA TACHIBANA

Daughter of the chief of police, Marika is Raku's fiancée, according to an agreement made by their fathers—an agreement Marika takes very seriously! Also has a key and remembers making a promise with Raku ten years ago.

# CHARACTERS & STORY

Ten years ago, Raku Ichijo made a promise with a girl he loved that they would get married when they met again...and he still treasures the pendant she gave him to seal their pledge.

Thanks to his family's circumstances, Raku has to pretend he's dating Chitoge Kirisaki, the daughter of a rival gangster. Despite their constant spats, Raku and Chitoge manage to fool everyone. Chitoge also has a token from her first love ten years ago—an old key. Meanwhile, Raku's crush, Kosaki, also has a key, as does Marika, the girl Raku's father has arranged for him to marry. Now, Raku's childhood friend Yui has been hired as their homeroom teacher. It turns out that she, too, has a key connected to a special promise. And when the class goes on their school trip, things start to get a little crazy!

## SEISHIRO TSUGUMI

Trained as an assassin in order to protect Chitoge, Tsugumi is often mistaken for a boy.



## HARU ONODERA

Kosaki's adoring younger sister. Has a low opinion of Raku.

# NISEKOI

## False Love

vol. 18: Attack

TABLE OF CONTENTS


chapter 153: Live Action 7

chapter 154: Happy 27

chapter 155: Archery 47

chapter 156: Attack 67

chapter 157: Leaving 87

chapter 158: Question 107

chapter 159: Great Plan 127

chapter 160: Separation 147

chapter 161: Trap 167

WHAT?

WATCH OUT, MISTRESS!

KA-SHWOOO

SHUP

ROLL-A ROLL-A ROLL-A

VA VOOM

PHEW

GEEZ, YOU MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL OUT OF THINGS, TSUGUMI!

YOUR TENDER FLESH WAS ALMOST VIOLATED BY THE BITE OF AN OFF-SEASON MOSQUITO, MISTRESS...

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE!

HA HA HA HA HA

YOU ARE STUPENDOUS, GIRL. YOU GOT THE TALENT I BEEN SEARCHING FOR!!

HEY, GIRL! YOU WANNA THROW DOWN IN A SWORDPLAY DEMO, RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW?!

HUH ??

SUPER-LATIVE ACTION!!

BRAVO!

...OF HOW I ENDED UP IN A SWORDPLAY DEMO.

SO THAT'S THE STORY...

Sigh

GEEZ, THAT'S ROUGH!

APPARENTLY THEIR LEAD ACTOR IS SICK...

AND THE MISTRESS WAS REALLY KEEN ON THE IDEA...

# Chapter 153: Live Action

THAT'S COLD!

...BUT AFTER A WHILE, I GUESS SHE GOT BORED...

WELL, SHE WATCHED THE FIRST FEW SHOWS...

SO...

WHERE'S CHITOGE NOW?

YESTERDAY SHE WAS REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE MOVIE-SET VILLAGE WITH ONODERA AND THE REST, BUT TODAY SHE DECIDED TO DO HER OWN THING...

SEEMS LIKE SOME-THING MUST BE UP.

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT?

WELL, UH...

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU TWO?

HUH?

IF I TELL TSUGUMI WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY, SHE'LL MURDER ME!

WHAT?

DID YOU DO SOME-THING TO THE MISTRESS?!

IF YOU DID, PREPARE YOUR-SELF TO...

I, didn't, I didn't!

SHEESH! YOU'RE THE MISTRESS'S BOYFRIEND. YOU SHOULD BE MORE THOUGHT-FUL!

IF YOU'VE DONE SOMETHING TO UPSET HER...

OKAY, OKAY!

I get it!

BY THE WAY, TSUGUMI...

WHAT?

OF COURSE I DO! I'M ALREADY INTERESTED IN SWORDPLAY SHOWS, AND IT'S NOT EVERY DAY I GET TO SEE YOU DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

*Y-YOU WANT TO WATCH IT!?*

*N-N-NO!! I COULDN'T DO IT WITH YOU WATCHING! I COULDN'T FOCUS!!*

*BLRF!!*

WHAT TIME DOES THE NEXT SHOW START?

*OH!*

WELL, I CAN SPARE THE TIME TO SEE ONE LITTLE SHOW. I'LL FIND THEM RIGHT AFTER...

YOU'D BETTER GO FIND THEM!

BESIDES, AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE WITH ONODERA AND THE OTHERS?!

GOOD WORK OUT THERE!!

HEY, G!!!!RL! LOOKIN' GOOD!

*FINE! WATCH IF YOU MUST!!*

*JUST DON'T TELL THE OTHERS, OKAY?!*

*Please!!*

*I BET THEY'D ALL LOVE TO SEE THIS...*

*I KNOW... I'LL TELL THEM ALL TO COME!*

*SHUP*

THIS TIME, I'M DOWN ONE OF THE FEMALE ROLES. KNOW ANYONE WHO COULD MAYBE STAND IN?

BUT YO, WE'VE GOT ANOTHER PROBLEM, BABY.

OH!

A FEMALE ROLE?

THE PRODUCER OF THE SHOW...

I MEAN, I DIDN'T CATCH A SINGLE MISTAKE!

YOU WERE PERFECT OUT THERE, BABY!

BWAHAHAHA

HUH ...?

HEY, YOU.

YOU SAID YOU WERE INTERESTED IN SWORDPLAY SHOWS...

?

GLANCE

WE GOT BUSINESS WITH THIS HERE LADY.

OUTTA THE WAY!!

HEY HEY!!

WE HEARD YOU SAY YOU'RE A REAL BADASS SWORDS-MAN!

BWA HAHAHA HAHAHA

CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE BOTHERING THE YOUNG LADY?!

STOP THAT, YOU ROGUES!

※ RAKU

GAH...

WHY ME?

I'LL SLAY YOU BY MY BLADE, SO THAT MY NAME WILL BE KNOWN FAR AND WIDE!

WHY, YOU IMPUDENT CUR!!

HAVE AT THEE!

HYAAAAA

GLANCE

HMPH!

I'LL... PROTECT... YOU... HEH HEH HEH...

DON'T WORRY, MISS.

QUIT LAUGHING AT ME AND STAY IN CHARACTER, YOU HACK!

KASHIKO

KA

SHIN

UI-20

FWA

CHI

SHE'S REALLY AMAZING AT THIS ACTION STUFF.

WOW.

OOOH!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

WOBBLE

UGH!

ACK...

YOU'RE AMAZING, TSUGUMI!

I CAN SEE WHY THE PRODUCER SCOUTED YOU OUT.

WHA—

YOU'RE REALLY GREAT.

HEH. THANKS.

KA SHING!

HYAAA!! CAUGHT YOU LOOKING AWAY!!

H-HA!

IT'S NOTHING. YOUR FLATTERY AFFECTS ME NOT!

FWOO

FWOO FWOO

WATCH...

HUH?

TSUGUMI, YOU OKAY?

WHOA! I CAN'T BELIEVE I CAUGHT THAT...

Ouch!

ER... YES...

HUH?

GRAB!!

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT?!

Er...

UH-OH!! WHAT NOW?

CHATTER

WHAT A BEAST !!

THAT VILLAGE GIRL CAUGHT A BLADE IN MIDAIR!!

CHATTER CHATTER

HEY!! DIDJA SEE THAT?

GASP!

I SUPPOSE MY SECRET'S OUT NOW!

TEE..

...HEE HEE HEE HEE...

THIS OUTFIT IS A MERE DISGUISE...

WHISPER

...

UH, WELL...

ER...

WHOOOA!

?!

WHAAAAAAAT?!

TA—DA!

ACTUALLY, MY TRUE IDENTITY...

...IS THAT OF THE FABLED MASTER SWORDSMAN OFT SPOKEN OF IN THESE PARTS!!

WE CERTAINLY NEVER SUSPECTED YOU WERE A WOMAN!

YOU'RE THE FABLED SWORDSMAN?

W-WHAT ON EARTH ...

WITHOUT A DISGUISE, THE CHALLENGES BY THOSE WHO WOULD PIT THEIR SKILL AGAINST MINE ARE RELENTLESS ...

KA

SHING

HMPH!

HYAAA!!

WELL, NEVER MIND! IT MATTERS NOT!

WE'LL SEND YOU STRAIGHT TO HELL TOO!

THAT OTHER GUY'S TOUGHER...

IS IT ME, OR IS THE FABLED SWORDSMAN KINDA WEAK?

HUH?

MRMR

MRMR

MRMR

WHO COULD LIVE UP TO TSUGUMI'S STANDARDS ANYWAY?!

NGH! HUSH!!

HYAAAAA!!

TANG

TING

SHING

TANG

HWAAAAA!!

A-EEE!!

SLASH

KOFF!

COME NOW. IT'S NOT KIND TO SHOW YOUR OPPONENT EXCESSIVE MERCY.

OOOOOH!!

TSUGUMI...!

WHMP

ISN'T THAT RIGHT...

MASTER?

HMM... TWO MASTER SWORDSMEN!

TAKE THAT!

HYAAA!

KLASH

KA-SHING

BETTER WRAP UP THE STORY SOON...

THANKS!

LEAVE THIS TO ME.

I'LL HANDLE THE LIKES OF YOU!

YOU RIFFRAFF... YOU'RE NOT WORTHY OF MY MASTER'S TIME!

YOU'RE HIS DISCIPLE?!

WHA—?!

YOU'RE THE FABLED WARRIOR DUO SAID TO ROAM JAPAN TOGETHER...

I-I SEE NOW!

THE RUMORS ARE TRUE...

OH!!

BLUSH

HUH?!

THE HUSBAND AND WIFE SAMURAI!

I'VE HEARD OF YOU!!

KA SL ASH

WHO ARE YOU CALLING HUSBAND AND WIFE!!

YIKES!! What a reaction!!

HA HA HA! WHEN WE SLAY THESE TWO...

...WE'LL BE FAMOUS...

HOW SWEET!

MURMUR

THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MARRIED?!

MURMUR

OOOH! A MARRIED COUPLE?!

MURMUR

MURMUR

SHIVER

WHO...

SHIVER

WHO...

WAY TO GO!! ☆

HA HA HA

HA HA HA

YOU TWO KILLED IT OUT THERE!!

NO, THANK YOU.

TSUGUMI, YOU COULD REALLY MAKE A GO OF IT AS AN ACTOR!

AREN'T A LOTTA GIRLS OUT THERE WHO CAN DO ACTION LIKE YOU, BABY!

"CAN I GET YOUR HUSBAND'S AUTOGRAPH ?!"

YOU KNOW WHAT SOMEONE JUST SAID TO ME?!

SQUEAL SQUEAL

Uh, thank you...

WELL, AT LEAST WE WERE POPULAR.

...

Wow, you're such a strong woman!!

WELL, AT LEAST WE GOT THROUGH IT.

SHEESH.

YOU'RE LIKE SOME KIND OF BAD LUCK CHARM OR SOMETHING.

COULDA HANDLED IT MYSELF, BUT STILL.

I, UH... APPRECI-ATE IT.

YOU DEFENDED ME WHEN THAT BROKEN BLADE CAME FLYING...

OH...

WELL, YOU SAVED MY HIDE TOO...

UM...

THANKS FOR BEFORE.

.....

HUH?

HUH?

DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE FEWER PEOPLE MISTAKE YOU FOR A BOY THESE DAYS?

...

SPEAKING OF WHICH, I NOTICED SOMETHING ABOUT HOW THE CROWD REACTED TO YOU...

COMPARED TO WHEN I FIRST MET YOU...

WELL, YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED A LOT RECENTLY.

HAVE I? I DUNNO...

YEAH, I GUESS SO.

...BUT ALMOST EVERYONE KNEW YOU WERE A GIRL.

TODAY YOU WERE FULLY DRESSED IN A MAN'S OUTFIT...

WHA—

YOU'RE A LOT MORE FEMININE.

YEAH, YOU'VE REALLY CHANGED.

YEAH?

MAYBE AFTER THIS, IF YOU WANT...

HEY...

HUH?

THERE YOU GO AGAIN...

ER...

ACTUALLY, I SHOULD REALLY GET GOING...

C'MON, BABY! WE'LL GO WITH A STRAIGHT-UP SWORDSWOMAN ROLE FOR THIS NEXT ONE!

WOW. DISSED!

OH, AND YOU CAN GO, BRO. THANKS. ☆

WAY TO GO! YOU'RE A HIT!! THEY WANT AN ENCORE!!

HEEEEY, TSU-GUMI!!!

WHAM

WAAAAAAAH!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THEY MIGHT BE GETTING WORRIED BY NOW.

OKAY.

TIME TO FIND THE OTHERS.

SHUP

WELL, GOOD LUCK, TSU-GUMI!

Wait... How long do I have to do this?!

FORGOT TO CHARGE MY PHONE.

...AND I LOST THE GROUP!

MY MIND KEPT WANDERING...

WAAAAAAAAAH!

AND I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HANGING OUT WITH KOSAKI AND THE OTHERS... WHY DID THIS HAPPEN?

AFTER I WAS SO BRAVE YESTERDAY, INVITING RAKU TO HANG OUT...

AUGH! WHAT AM I DOING?! ON OUR CLASS TRIP, TOO!!

...

SIGH...

AND THAT OTHER STUFF TOO. OH NO, I'M SO EMBARRASSED, HOW CAN I LOOK HIM IN THE FACE?!

PLUS, I CAN'T BELIEVE I SNUCK INTO A BOY'S ROOM LATE AT NIGHT AND FELL FAST ASLEEP. WHO DOES THAT?!

I WANT TO HAVE FUN WITH RAKU AND KOSAKI AND EVERYONE...

I DON'T WANT TO LET IT RUIN THE WHOLE TRIP.

WELL, THERE'S NO POINT IN FREAKING OUT OVER IT.

HEY, THAT'S ...

...

ACT LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED AND BLEND BACK INTO THE GROUP...

I JUST HAVE TO BE COOL...

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

RAKU DEAREST!!

HEY, RAKU...

FOUND YOUUUU!!

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! WHY, I WAS JUST BESIDE MYSELF WITH WORRY...

UGH...!!

TO BE CONTINUED IN 2 PAGES...

Nisekoi
Chapter 154: Happy

TAK!!
WSSH

TACHI-BANA!

WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?

WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN?

I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

YAP YAP

W-WHY AM I HIDING?!

BUT WHEN WE NOTICED YOU WERE MISSING, I WAS BESIDE MYSELF WITH WORRY!

YES.

WEREN'T YOU WITH THEM?

WHERE ARE ONODERA AND THE OTHERS?

SO YOU GOT LOST TOO, HUH?

JUST WHEN I'D GOTTEN MY COURAGE UP, SHE SCREWS UP MY TIMING!

THAT TACHIBANA!

But I like it!!

OH, RAKU, YOU'RE SO MEAN!

MINE'S DEAD...

CAN I BORROW YOUR PHONE?

RIGHT... THANKS.

YES!

BUT I HAD FAITH THAT OUR LOVE WOULD REUNITE US!

AND IT HAS!

NOW I FEEL AWKWARD COMING OUT...

STARE

I FINALLY FOUND RAKU, BUT...

UGH... WHAT NOW?

Hmm...

...?

...

TWITCH TWITCH

HUH?

What was that about?

WHY DO YOU DO THIS STUFF TOTALLY OUT OF THE BLUE?!

WHAT THE —?!

KOFF

I'm not flattering you.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FLATTER ME...

OH, RAKU DEAREST. ♡

OH, RAKU, I LOVE YOU!! ♡

KA

FWAH

BLRG!

WELL, ISN'T THAT CONVENIENT! ♡

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT APPARENTLY MISS GORILLA ISN'T ABLE TO COME BETWEEN ME AND MY DARLING RAKU TODAY!

HA! ♡

GRIN

...

WELL, WELL!

TWITCH TWITCH TWITCH TWITCH

THANKS.

I'LL FIND OUT WHERE ONODERA AND THE OTHERS ARE.

BRRRG

WELL, THEN...

THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO WIN RAKU'S HEART, ONCE AND FOR ALL! ♡

Good!

OH! REALLY ?!

I WENT LOOKING FOR MY DARLING RAKU. HE'S HERE WITH ME NOW.

DON'T WORRY.

WHERE ARE YOU? YOU VANISHED ON US!

BEEP

OH! MARIKA ?

BEEP

WHERE ARE THEY?

World's Scariest

UM... WE'RE NEAR THE HAUNTED HOUSE...

GOT IT.

ALL RIGHT. WE'LL BE RIGHT OVER. IT WILL TAKE JUST A MOMENT.

WHERE IS EVERY-ONE, ONODERA ?

...

OH. OKAY...

SHE SEEMS UN- USUALLY COOPERA- TIVE...

THEY'RE AT A TEA-HOUSE, TAKING A REST.

I'LL TAKE YOU THERE... RIGHT THIS WAY! ♡

Quit pulling, would'ja?

COME TO THINK OF IT...

PEEK

I WONDER WHAT HE'S LIKE...

...WHEN HE'S ALONE WITH MARIKA...

AT THIS RATE, I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TALK TO HIM NORMALLY AGAIN.

WHAT AM I DOING? I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!

ARGH!

WHY CAN'T I BE MORE HONEST WITH MY FEELINGS?

SHEE

HOW CAN I COMPETE WITH THAT?

IT MUST BE MORE ATTRACTIVE TO GUYS WHEN A GIRL'S TOTALLY OPEN ABOUT HER FEELINGS THE WAY MARIKA IS...

RUSTLE RUSTLE

SO...

TEA-HOUSE

...

OH, RAKU DEAREST!

BECAUSE THIS IS A TEAHOUSE, SILLY!

WHY ARE WE SITTING HERE SIPPING TEA NOW?

WHAT'S THE POINT OF A SCHOOL TRIP IF YOU AREN'T WILLING TO ENJOY THINGS?

WHY, THAT'S A STRANGE ATTITUDE, RAKU DEAREST!

CHATTER

WHAAT ?

THEN WHY ARE WE JUST SITTING HERE?

LET'S CATCH UP WITH THEM...

CHATTER

I THOUGHT YOU SAID THEY WERE HERE!!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN! WHERE ARE ONODERA AND THE OTHERS?

I GUESS THEY MUST'VE MOVED ON.

...AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR TIME HERE.

WE SHOULD AT LEAST ENJOY OURSELVES WHILE WE'RE LOOKING FOR THEM...

THAT KINDA MAKES SENSE AND KINDA DOESN'T...

...

DID YOU COME ON THIS TRIP TO SPEND ALL OF YOUR TIME LOOKING FOR PEOPLE?

HERE WE ARE IN THIS BEAUTIFUL PLACE... IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF WE SPENT ALL OF OUR FREE TIME TRACKING PEOPLE DOWN, WOULDN'T IT?

WHAP!!

SORRY. MY PHONE'S DEAD TOO.

BRRNG

LET'S TRY CALLING AGAIN...

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, BUT ISN'T THE WHOLE POINT TO ENJOY THIS STUFF WITH EVERYONE?

WHY, RAKU! YOU MISUNDER-STAND ME!

WAIT... ARE YOU AVOIDING THEM ON PURPOSE?!

YOUR PHONE JUST RANG!!

THAT WAS SO OBVIOUS!

WHERE SHOULD WE LOOK NEXT?

Let's use our resources wisely!

STARE

...

YES! THAT SOUNDS FINE!

BUT WE'RE GOING TO TRY TO CATCH UP WITH THEM. RIGHT?

WE CAN ENJOY OUR-SELVES ON THE WAY.

FINE.

...

...BUT ALSO LIKE HE'S ENJOYING THE ATTENTION.

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING A NICE TIME.

HMPH.

RAKU LOOKS ANNOYED...

WHY YOU LITTLE...

KHHRR KHHRR

THIS TEA SHOP REALLY DOESN'T *MESS AROUND!* I JUST *LOVE* A *HOT* CUP OF TEA, DON'T YOU?

LET THEM DO WHAT THEY WANT!

HMPH! I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

Why are you talking like that?

YAP YAP...

...MESS AROUND...

...YAP...

TWITCH

...

SHP

YOU DON'T REALLY SEEM MOTI-VATED TO FIND THE OTHERS...

TEE HEE HEE...

WHERE SHALL WE GO NEXT?

SLMP

WHA—?!

ALL THIS WALKING HAS REALLY TIRED ME OUT.

MIND IF I LEAN ON YOU A BIT FOR SUPPORT?

OH, RAKU DEAREST...

HMM?

...

YOU ALWAYS DO THIS STUFF ...

C'MON, LEMME GO!

GAAAH!! I CAN'T WATCH THIS!!

THE NERVE OF THAT GIRL...

FWHSH

HUH?

WAIT A SEC.

ARE YOU OKAY?

NOW YOU'VE GOT ME ACTUALLY WORRIED.

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T HIDE IT WHEN YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL.

YOU LOOK PALE.

ARE YOU... ACTUALLY WORRIED ABOUT ME, RAKU DEAREST?

I'M SORRY... I WAS REALLY JUST KIDDING...

LET'S TAKE A LITTLE REST.

SORRY I DIDN'T NOTICE SOONER.

—

OKAY...

ZING

DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT WITH KIRISAKI?

RAKU DEAREST...

BLRFF!

BLRF

NO REASON... I WAS JUST WONDERING.

ZOOM!

NO, NOT EXACTLY...

WHY DO YOU ASK?

Really?

NOT TO MENTION LACKING IN FEMININE CHARMS.

I FIND HER SHORT-TEMPERED, VIOLENT AND RUDE.

AS I'VE STATED BEFORE...

I THINK YOU'D BE MUCH BETTER OFF WITH ME.

SO...

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT KIRISAKI THESE DAYS?

SHEESH.

YOU'RE REALLY HARSH, YOU KNOW THAT?

MARIKA ?!

WHAT ...?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU...

...BUT I'D NEVER DO THINGS TO TROUBLE YOU OR MAKE YOU UNHAPPY.

BUT...

WE'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER JUST FINE THIS WAY.

!

SURE...

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I WISH SHE WOULD BE MORE SWEET AND AFFECTIONATE LIKE YOU...

IT'S TRUE, SHE'S REALLY FEISTY AND WE FIGHT A LOT.

BUT IN THAT SENSE, WE CAN BE VERY HONEST WITH EACH OTHER.

I FEEL LIKE THE WAY WE ARE GIVES US A DEEPER UNDER-STANDING OF EACH OTHER...

...THAN FRIENDS USUALLY HAVE.

...JUST SAY...

...THAT I ENJOY...

...CHITOGE'S COMPANY?

THAT'S WHY LATELY, I REALLY ENJOY HER COMPANY.

DID I REALLY ...

THAT'S WEIRD.

SO DON'T SAY STUFF LIKE THAT.

OH!

OH...

...

SLEEPING DOGS?

NEVER MIND.

I REALLY SHOULD'VE LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE.

ICHIJO AND MARIKA!

SHOULDN'T YOU BE RESTING, MARIKA?

I'M FINE.

...OUR DATE IS OVER, RAKU DEAREST.

LOOKS LIKE...

Hey there!

OH, BY THE WAY...

TOMORROW, DURING GROUP ACTIVITY TIME...

...I KNOW YOU'RE IN A DIFFERENT GROUP, RAKU DEAREST...

...BUT I WOULD SURE LOVE IT IF WE JUST HAPPENED TO RUN INTO EACH OTHER! ♡

THAT WON'T HAPPEN.

WE'RE GOING DIFFERENT PLACES.

WELL...

YOU CAN NEVER BE SURE, CAN YOU? ♡

Tee hee hee hee hee hee...

RAKU...

...LIKES BEING AROUND ME?

HE ENJOYS...

...MY COM-PANY?

CHATTER CHATTER

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE LITTLE THINGS HE SAYS AFFECT ME SO MUCH...

YEESH! THAT BEAN SPROUT...

AAAAGH!

THUNK THUNK

I LIKE YOU SO MUCH!!!

STUPID RAKU! YOU JERK!!

PHEW...

Calm down...

Gotta calm down...

PHEW...

I'M SO HAPPY!!

YIPPEEEEEE!!

I SURE WISH...

...WE WERE IN THE SAME GROUP.

ANYWAYS...

...I'LL SHOW UP SMILING AND START A CONVERSATION.

TOMORROW...

I WAS FEELING KINDA ANXIOUS, BUT THAT WAS DUMB.

BRRING

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

BEEP

Inbox

Subject: Re: Queen of Hearts

Requested item has been obtained.

Operation slated to proceed as planned.

The Dark Knights

GRIN

What is this? Somehow it looks vaguely familiar...
...?

DAY 3 OF OUR CLASS TRIP...

TODAY, WE EXPLORE KYOTO IN OUR GROUPS.

HEY, ICHIJO...

# Chapter 155: Archery

ABOUT TODAY'S PLANS...

YEAH?

*AWAYADAISAN-JI IS A PUN AND CAN ALSO MEAN "A CLOSE CALL."

THE PLAN WAS TO VISIT KIYOMIZU-DERA, BUT WOULD YOU MIND IF WE CHANGED IT?

THERE'S THIS PLACE I REALLY WANT TO GO...

OH?

ALL OF A SUDDEN?

WELL, THERE'S A REALLY FAMOUS "POWER SPOT" IN KYOTO...

...CALLED AWAYA-DAISAN-JI!

IT'S A TEMPLE.

SOUNDS PRETTY SKETCHY ...

HUH?

FINE WITH ME, THEN.

YEAH, I'VE BEEN INTER-ESTED IN THAT PLACE TOO!

OH! I WANNA GO THERE TOO!

ME TOO, ME TOO!

REALLY?

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER GUYS?

I DON'T MIND...

ACTUALLY, THOSE ALL LOOK...

Heh heh heh...

Hee hee hee...

M3

NOT MUCH OF A SOUVENIR— IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH KYOTO, REALLY.

DROOL DROOL

I DIDN'T NOTICE HIM HAVING THAT FAN BEFORE TODAY...

MIKAKO

CHATTER CHATTER

OKAY!

...

WELL... WHATEVER.

Ooh, lotsa hotties in Kyoto...

JAB

OUR PLAN WAS TO START WITH JAPANESE SWEET SHOPS.

THERE'S A FAMOUS ONE NEARBY.

GROUP EXPLORATION DAY! I CAN HARDLY WAIT!!

WHERE SHOULD WE GO FIRST?

BEEP BEEP

WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING RIGHT NOW?

I WISH RAKU WERE WITH US TOO.

GRIN

BEEP

I THINK IT WAS CALLED...

Why don't you and Raku sneak off and go to *that shrine?*

We can't do that!

Jeez, some class trip. Nothing juicy's happened since the first day!

IF WE WERE IN THE SAME GROUP, MAYBE WE COULDA GONE TO THAT SHRINE THAT'S GOOD LUCK FOR COUPLES...

SEEMS INEFFICIENT, DOESN'T IT?

WELL, THE THING IS, WE'RE ALL INTERESTED IN GOING TO DIFFERENT PLACES AND SEEING DIFFERENT THINGS.

WHY SO FORMAL?

HUH?

EXCUSE ME, EVERYONE, MAY I MAKE A PROPOSAL?

AHEM! ER...

NOW, IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...

SO WE DON'T TELL THEM.

OH!

HEY, WAIT!

SO... ♡

YEAH, MARIKA!

IF THE TEACH-ERS FOUND OUT...

YOU KNOW WE CAN'T DO THAT!!

WHAT?!

GO WHERE WE WANT, WHEN WE WANT...

WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST DO OUR OWN THING TODAY?

NOW WHAT?

...?

WE STICK TO OUR PLAN, THAT'S WHAT!

SHE ALWAYS DOES WHATEVER SHE WANTS!

...

SHE'S GONE!

HRM...

SO THIS IS THE TEMPLE YOU GUYS WANTED TO VISIT?

SEEMS LIKE AN ORDINARY TEMPLE TO ME.

Oh, but there's also a shrine here...

HEY, DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER!

THIS PLACE HAS AMAZING POWERS!

HMM...

TIP TOE

CHATTER

CHATTER

LOTS OF FEMALE ONES, IN PARTICU-LAR...

THERE DO SEEM TO BE LOTS OF WORSHIP-PERS.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

TACHI-BANA?!

I GOT SEPARATED FROM THE OTHERS...

OH, RAKU DEEEAR-EST!!

HUH ?!

GRIN

WHERE'D GORISAWA AND THE OTHERS GO?

HEY ...

I SEE...

OH...

WHY, I'M THRILLED!

I THOUGHT I'D STOP BY THIS TEMPLE. WHAT A COINCIDENCE, RAKU DEAREST!

IS IT REALLY A COINCI-DENCE?

BUT OF COURSE, RAKU DEAREST! ♡

IT'S A MIRACLE OF PURE LOVE! ♡

YAY! ♡

WHAT AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE! ♡

MY, MY!

GRIN ♡

WELL...

SURE, WHY NOT?

Right this way!

IT'S FAMOUS FOR BRINGING ***HEALTH BENEFITS***, YOU KNOW!

THIS TEMPLE'S SUPPOSED TO BESTOW TREMENDOUS BLESSINGS TO VISITORS WHO DO A CERTAIN THING WITHIN THE TEMPLE'S GROUNDS.

SINCE WE'RE HERE, RAKU DEAREST, LET'S PAY OUR RESPECTS TOGETHER, SHALL WE?

***MMM...***

***DELI-CIOUS!!***

抹茶
きなこ

YOU'VE REALLY LEARNED TO LIKE JAPANESE SWEETS, HUH?

Wish Haru could taste it!

TOTALLY!

THE SWEET BEAN JELLY HERE IS EXCEL-LENT!

IT'S JUST THE RIGHT SWEET-NESS!

BRRR!

BRRR!

NOW I CAN EAT ANYTHING, EVEN DORAYAKI!

YEP!

*DORAYAKI IS A SWEET BEAN PASTE SANDWICHED BETWEEN SWEET PANCAKES.

AWAYA-DAISAN-JI...

SEARCH-ING WEB FOR...

TAP TAPTAP TAP

NEXT

Hey, Tachibana got lost from your group. We're at Awayadaisan-ji. Come get her, okay?

...

HMM...

BEEP

HUH?

A TEXT FROM RAKU?

御古屋

HMM?

HEY, EVERYONE!

B-ING

AH-HA!♡

ER... MISTRESS?! YOU'RE INTER-ESTED IN THAT TEMPLE?!

C'MON, TSU-GUMI!!

BLOOOSH

ZOOOOM!

B-B-BUT ...!

GO ON. FOLLOW THEM!

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

WELL, SHE WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!

SHE MUST KNOW ABOUT THAT TEMPLE TOO!!

How'd she pull this off?

THAT TACHIBANA!

VOOSH

STOP RIGHT THERE, MARIKA!

I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE...

W-W-WAIT, TACHI-BANA!! TIME OUT!!

JUST STAY PUT, RAKU DEAR-EST!

THERE'S A CERTAIN THING TWO PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO DO AT THAT TEMPLE...

HOLD STILL, RAKU DEAREST!!

SHWOO!

SHWOO!

SHWOO!

SHWOO!

AUGH! KNOCK IT OFF, WOULDJA?!

IT'LL ONLY HURT FOR A MOMENT!

DON'T WORRY!

HAHH

HAHH

WELL, WELL!

ARE YOU YOUNG LADIES INTERESTED IN THE RITUAL TOO?

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

WH... WHAT THE HECK?

Ahahaha

Aiieee

MY HEALTH IS BEING THREAT-ENED RIGHT NOW!!

IS THIS REALLY A RITUAL FOR MY HEALTH?!

IT'LL MAKE YOUR HEALTH WISH COME TRUE!

SHWOO FWOO

OH!

YOU KNOW MY SISTER?

WELCOME!

She looks just slightly differ-ent!

IT'S HER! THE HIGH PRIESTESS'S TWIN SISTER!!

THEIR POWERS ARE ACTIVATED WHEN A GIRL SHOOTS A GUY WITH THEM!

THEY'RE AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL LOVE CHARM!

I MAKE THESE ARROWS MYSELF.

TAK TAK TAK TAK

HUH?

WANT TO TRY ONE?

WHAT DO YOU SAY?

I'D IMAGINE SO!

FEWER PEOPLE USE THEM THESE DAYS, SINCE IT DOES HURT WHEN YOU GET HIT...

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE, BEAN SPROUT!

RRRRRRR

YOU TOO?!

OH! IT'S CHITOGE!

...

TAK TAK TAK

SHE CAN HELP ME...

OH, GOOD!

I'M IN DANGER RIGHT NOW!!

I MEAN, IT WARDS OFF DANGER!!

THIS ARROW IS A POWERFUL ...

HUSH! NEVER MIND THAT! HOLD STILL AND LET ME SHOOT YOU!!

AUUUGH!! HANG ON A SEC!! WHY...?!

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

BUT I WON'T LET YOU INTERFERE!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU TRACKED US DOWN, INTRUDER!

WELL, WELL!

HUH?

AAAHHH!

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

MARIKA'S HENCH-WOMAN?!

MMF?!

EXCUSE ME. JUST DOING MY JOB.

YES!!

?!

HONDA!!

FLASH!

WHIP!

DON'T INTERFERE WITH MY MISTRESS!

TSU-GUMI!!

ZZ

ASHI

I GET THE GENERAL IDEA. I'LL HANDLE THIS.

YOU HURRY UP AND SHOOT RAKU ICHIJO WITH THAT ARROW, MIS-TRESS!

EEP!

THANK YOU, TSU-GUMI!

DON'T HURT THEM!

I DON'T RELISH THIS EITHER.

YES— I KNEW YOU'D BE A FOR-MIDABLE FOE THE MOMENT I SET EYES ON YOU.

SHP

I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO DO THIS.

YOU'RE A PROFES-SIONAL, AREN'T YOU, MISS TSUGUMI?

THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.

AFTER THIS MISSION, I'LL GRANT YOU A WEEK'S VACATION!

THANK YOU, HONDA!

I'LL HANDLE THIS, MISTRESS.

YOU GO RIGHT AHEAD...

WHAT THE—

VOOSH BWASH!!

KSHING! FWISH

SHOOP

ZOOSH

NOW...

OH!

ICHI-JOOOO!!

I DON'T GET THIS AT ALL!

WHAT'RE THEY DOING?!

ONO-DERA!

YOU'RE HERE TOO?

YOU OKAY?

ARE YOU HURT?

ER... ACTUALLY...

THIS IS HARD TO SAY, BUT...

SHOOTING SOMEONE WITH AN ARROW?! THAT'S SO NOT NORMAL!

AH... AHA HA... HA...

PUH-LEASE! I MEAN, HAVE SOME CONSIDER-ATION, RIGHT?

THANK GOOD-NESS!

AH HA HA... THAT SOUNDS ROUGH!

SOMETHING ABOUT THE AMAZING POWERS OF THIS TEMPLE...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP, BUT BOTH CHITOGE AND TACHIBANA ARE AFTER ME!

Sorry.

THIS WON'T HURT.

ET TU, BRUTE?!

SO, UH...

THE ARROW JUST HAS TO HIT YOU A LITTLE BIT...

GEE, THIS TEMPLE HAS LOTS OF DIFFERENT POWERS!!

REAL-LY?!

UM... THIS TEMPLE BRINGS AMAZING ACADEMIC SUCCESS!!

W-W-WAIT!!

B-BMp

B-BMp

B-BMp

AH... AHH...

OKAY...

HERE I GO...

WELL... IF YOU SAY SO...

IF ONODERA'S DOING THIS FOR MY SAKE...

YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME AGAIN, RAKU DEAREST !!

DO DO DO

FOUND YOU!!

JOLT

WHAT ?!

WOOSH!

STOP! OH, NO YOU DON'T, MARIKA!!

FLAIL FLAIL

FWAM

OW!

ICHIJO ?!

TRIP

AUGH!! WAIT!

LOOK, IF YOU ALL JUST WANT TO HIT ME WITH AN ARROW, DO IT MORE GENTLY!!

SHOOSH

GOTCHA !!

SHOO

!!

WOOSH

They don't see me, do they?
BA-DMP BA-DMP
I hope nobody sees me...

# Chapter 156: Attack

...GOTCHA!!

AND...

UP

TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK-TAK

HUH?!

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!!!

WAH HA HA HA HA !!!

?!!

U SHU U ...?!

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!!

wa ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha

THIS IS IT!!!

?!

SNATCH!

VIVE...

...L'AVEN-TURE!!

RAKU... THERE'S NO WAY I'M LETTING YOU BAG ALL THE GOODIES HERE, PAL!!

I WANT TO BE BOUND BY LOVE TO A GORGEOUS GIRL TOO!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

Y-YIKES!! DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!!

I WAS JUST KIDDING AROUND...

KSSHHH

WHOA...

YOU SLIME...

SH UP

You saved the day!!

THANK YOU, RURI!

Both of you. HERE.

OOF!!!

WAAH!!!

TAKE THIS!!

HUH?

THAT STONE YOU JUST USED...

...IS THE ONLY BLACK STONE ON THE TEMPLE GROUNDS.

WELL, WELL!

THIS IS QUITE A RARE OCCUR-RENCE!

TAK TAK

TAK TAK

Wait up !!

Yikes !!

WHEN A WOMAN FINDS THAT STONE AND HITS A MAN WITH IT, IT'S A LOVE CHARM ***TEN TIMES*** STRONGER THAN THE ARROWS!

KO

THANK YOU!!

DIE!!!

BAM

AH, WHAT A WASTE.

KRAK!

SHAKA SHAKA

NOBODY'S EVER MANAGED TO FIND IT BEFORE...

You're incredibly lucky!

YOU FLATTER ME.

I'M SURPRISED TO ENCOUNTER SUCH A SKILLED FIGHTER IN THE WORLD OF LAW AND ORDER.

A FORMIDABLE FOE INDEED.

SSH

KA SHI

NG

VWISH

FWASH

...BUT IN THE COURSE OF MY DUTIES PROTECTING MISTRESS MARIKA... FOR-GIVE ME...

...I FREQUENTLY HAVE THE CHANCE TO OBSERVE THE PEOPLE AROUND HER.

FWAP

VWIP

VWAP

...WOULDN'T YOU RATHER PARTAKE IN THE LOVE CHARM ACTIVITIES HERE?

SSH

HOW-EVER...

EX-CUSE ME?

WHA—?!

V.WASH!!

YOUR FEELINGS FOR ICHIJO AREN'T EXACTLY UNFRIENDLY, ARE THEY?

TSU-GUMI...

That was close!!

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?

YEESH!! WHAT WAS THAT?!

...

THAT TURKEY MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

D-DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!!

YIKES!!

UP!

GULP...

REALLY AND TRULY...?

IS THAT REALLY TRUE?

GASP!

NO WAY!

STAY STILL, WOULDJA?!

HOLD UP, BEAN SPROUT!

TAK TAK TAK

TAK TAK TAK

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

HERE I COME!!

I HAFTA HIT HIM THIS TIME!!

WATCH OUT!!

RRR!!

Oh! Me too!

THIS IS MY LAST CHANCE!!

JUST ONE ARROW LEFT!

MY BOW-STRING BROKE?!

HUH?

THIS IS MY CHANCE !!

SNAP

!!

VO

OSH!!!

VICTORY IS MIIIINE!!

THEN WHY...

...DID YOU GRAB THAT BOW?

D-DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!!

I...

LIKE THE OTHERS...

TELL THE TRUTH... YOU WANT TO PARTAKE OF THE LOVE CHARM TOO!

I...

NO!

I DON'T WANT TO SERIOUSLY HURT YOU!

BUT YOU CHOSE TO USE THE BOW INSTEAD...

...BECAUSE OF YOUR FEELINGS, RIGHT?

NORMALLY...

YOU'D USE THE HANDGUN YOU KEEP UP YOUR SLEEVE.

!!

...AS YOUR MISTRESS DOES ABOUT...

...THAT YOU FEEL JUST AS STRONGLY...

IS THAT SO?

IT SEEMS TO ME...

SHOOP

SHUT UP!!

SH...

SHOOSH!!!

B-B-BUT...

IF THE OTHERS SEE ME, THEY'LL KNOW...

SOMEONE'S GOING TO GET THE JUMP ON YOU IF YOU DON'T HUSTLE!

C'MON, KOSAKI, GET A MOVE ON!

SHOOP

GO, KOSAKI!! ATTA GIRL!

N-NO!

I CAN DO THIS!!

IF YOU DON'T STEP UP AND GO FOR IT NOW, YOU'LL ALWAYS REGRET IT!!

IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT NOW?!

"THE ARROW'S POWERS ARE ACTIVATED WHEN A GIRL SHOOTS A GUY..."

I'M DOWN TO MY LAST ARROW...

AND NO BOW TO SHOOT IT WITH.

NOW WHAT?

WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

...

HAHH!

EVEN THOUGH I AVOIDED YOU YESTERDAY...

HAHH!

EVEN THOUGH I HIDE THE WAY I REALLY FEEL...

HAHH!

...I WANT TO GIVE IT MY BEST SHOT!

...BUT RIGHT NOW...

I KNOW IT'S JUST A GOOD LUCK CHARM...

FWO

OOSH

SHP

IT'S STILL...

...NOT TOO LATE!!

WAAAAAAH!

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

MY ARROW, STOP!

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

I'VE GOT THIS!!

GO!!

MAY...MY FEELINGS... REACH THEIR TARGET!

SHWOO

KA

SHO

RAHHH!!

FW SHHH

WHIIIN

ROLL ROLL ROLL ROLL ROLL

UUU GAAAAH !!

NGH ...

Wha —?!

BULL'S-EYE...

BULL ...

That gorilla girl!!!

ARG!

Well, you tried.

Oh...

YIP!!

YIP...

What was I thinking?! Thank goodness I didn't hit him!!

GASP!

...

...

OOPS... SORRY...

YOU OWE ME FOR THAT BOW TOO.

GATHER UP AND RETURN YOUR ARROWS TO ME.

WHAT A MESS!

FINALLY FINISHED?

PHEW...

UGH !!

THERE! ♡

WHUD!

SHE NEVER SAID IT HAD TO BE THE FIRST ARROW TO HIT HIM.

COME TO THINK OF IT...

WHSH

WHSH

TAK TAK

I-I'LL HELP PICK UP THE ARROWS TOO...

ER...KOFF KOFF...

KOFF...

OKAY, I'LL HELP GATHER THE ARROWS NOW!

TAK TAK

SORRY, ICHIJO...

TUNK

No deep meaning or anything...

Nothing more...

It's just a good-luck charm...

WHSH

WHSH

WHUD

HRG !!

HUH?

PLINK

What?! No... It wasn't me!!

Hey... Did you have a bow earlier, Kosaki?

Oh... Weird...

OH! I REMEMBER NOW! YOU SHOT ME WITH AN ARROW!

YEOWCH! WHY AM I LYING HERE?

I GOT TOTALLY CARRIED AWAY!

OH, I'M SO SORRY...

...

CHI-TOGE...

OH!

YOU'RE AWAKE?

I GET THAT THOSE ARROWS ARE GOOD LUCK, BUT STILL...

*I mean, come on!*

AH HA HA HA HA...

WHY DID EVERYONE GO BONKERS ALL OF A SUDDEN?!

GEE... I DON'T KNOW!

HUH?! YOU'RE ACTING WEIRD NOW...

HUH?!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.

I'M REALLY SORRY.

THAT MUST'VE HURT.

*You weren't around ...*

HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?

HUH?

UM... I HEARD ABOUT IT LATER...

HUH?!

SHE REALLY SHOULDN'T OVERDO IT, SINCE SHE WAS FEELING BAD EARLIER AND ALL...

MARIKA'S RESTING.

THEY'RE OFF DOING TEMPLE STUFF...

WHERE'S EVERY-ONE?

CLENCH

Love Charm

*Huh?*

*You should buy a bajillion of these, Kosaki.*

WELL, THE CLASS TRIP'S ALMOST OVER.

YEP. AND THE SEMESTER'S ALMOST OVER TOO.

WE'LL BE THIRD-YEARS ALREADY. TIME SURE FLIES.

WE'VE BEEN A FALSE COUPLE FOR A YEAR AND A HALF.

HALF-WAY, HUH?

THAT'S AMAZING.

WE'RE HALFWAY THROUGH THE THREE YEARS WE PROMISED OUR PARENTS...

A LOT HAP-PENED.

AT FIRST I WAS SURE I'D NEVER LAST THREE YEARS WITH YOU!

YEAH, WELL, ME TOO!

IF WE WEREN'T A FALSE COUPLE, WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE GOTTEN TO KNOW EACH OTHER, RIGHT?

AND KOSAKI AND THE OTHERS TOO...

AND MAYBE TSUGUMI WOULDN'T HAVE TRANS-FERRED HERE...

MAYBE YOU'D BE DATING MARIKA.

MAYBE I'D NEVER HAVE TRANS-FERRED HERE.

OH... TRUE...

BUT HONESTLY ...

THESE DAYS, IT'S FUN.

HUH?

HUH?!

I REALLY DON'T MIND IT THESE DAYS.

NAH...

BUT IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A FALSE COUPLE ANYMORE...

WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I GUESS IT'S NOT SO BAD.

I REALLY MEAN IT.

NO...

I'M NOT FALLING FOR THAT AGAIN...

Y...YEAH, RIGHT!! YOU'RE JUST MESSING WITH ME NOW!!

I...

RAKU...

CHI-TOGE ...?

...

HUH?

WHO'S CALLING ME AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!

AGH!!

BRRING

BRRING

BRRING

BRRING

SHE'S ACTING SO WEIRD...

GEEZ... WHAT CAME OVER HER JUST NOW?

ALMOST AS IF...

HEL-LO?

YEP. WHAT'S UP?

RRRRING

OH... IT'S MY DAD.

What now?

Yeah?

YOU SHOULD TAKE IT.

MUST BE URGENT.

RAKU...

...

WHAT'S UP?

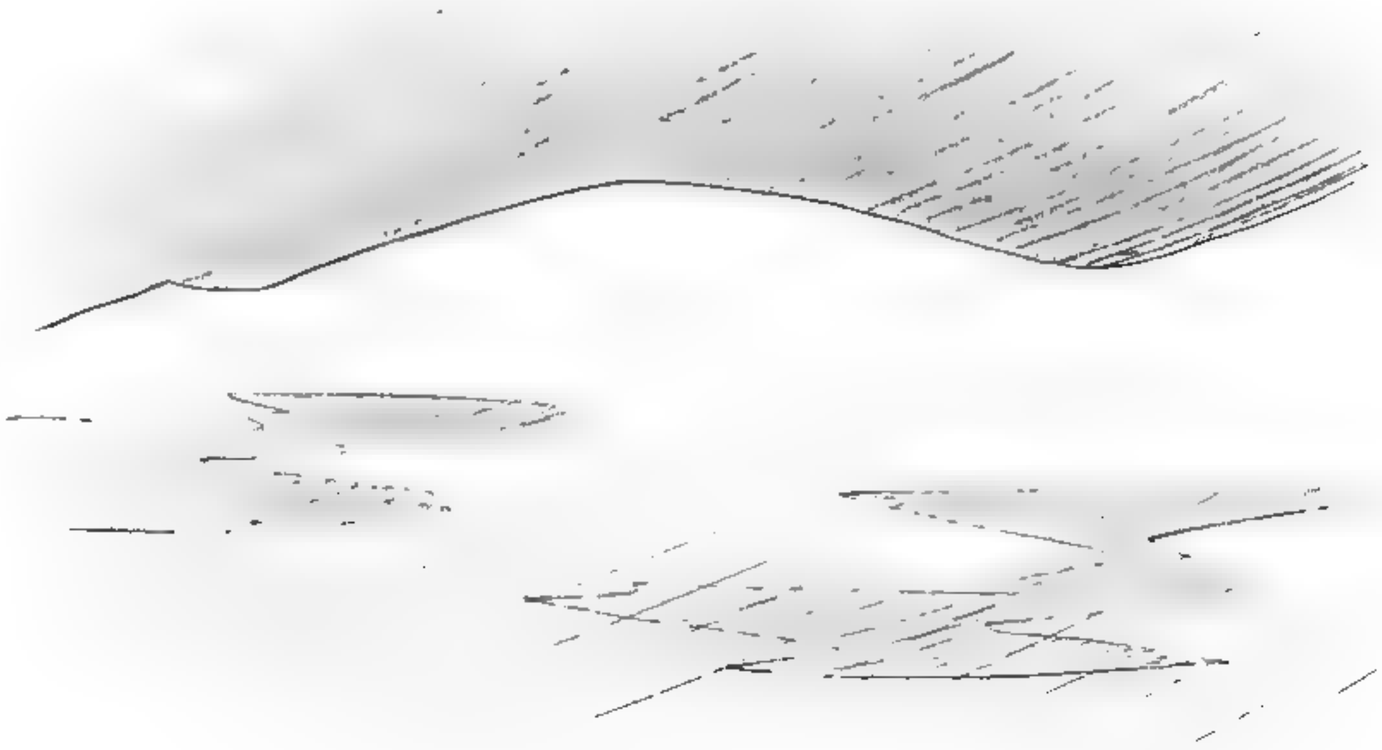
KLIK

WHAT?!

...NO LONGER HAVE TO BE A FALSE COUPLE.

HE SAYS YOU AND I...

WHAT?



DIIIIING DOOOOONG

# Chapter 157: Leaving

DIIIIING DOOOOONG

LISTEN UP, CLASS!

I KNOW THIS IS VERY SUDDEN, RIGHT AFTER OUR SCHOOL TRIP...

...BUT I HAVE AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

2-C

CHITOGE KIRISAKI AND SEISHIRO TSUGUMI...

...WILL BE LEAVING OUR SCHOOL AFTER THE END OF THIS WEEK.

# Chapter 157: Leaving

DUE TO FAMILY CIRCUMSTANCES, THEY'RE RETURNING TO THE U.S.

PLEASE MAKE THE MOST OF THE TIME YOU HAVE LEFT...

DAD... WHAT'S GOING ON..?!

YES. BUT...

WASN'T THE DEAL FOR THREE YEARS?!

WE DON'T HAVE TO BE A FALSE COUPLE ANYMORE?

HE HAS NO REASON TO STAY HERE ANY LONGER.

APPARENTLY ADELT'S FINISHED HIS BUSINESS IN JAPAN EARLIER THAN PLANNED.

...SO WE AGREED THAT THERE'S NO POINT IN THEIR STAYING IN JAPAN IF THERE'S NO NEED...

BUT WHENEVER YOUNG MEMBERS RUN INTO EACH OTHER, THEY STILL CLASH...

THANKS TO YOUR FALSE RELATIONSHIP, OUR FAMILIES HAVE ABANDONED THEIR ALL-OUT WAR.

BESIDES ...

WHEN WE SAID THREE YEARS, THAT WAS A GENEROUS ESTIMATE.

...

STILL...

DON'T TELL ME THAT YOU GUYS WENT FROM FALSE LOVERS TO REAL LOVERS?

WHAT?

IT'S JUST THAT...

NO, DAD!

Ah, youth!

I THOUGHT YOU'D BE HAPPIER!

NOW YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRETEND ANYMORE!

WHAT? AREN'T YOU GLAD?

YES, BUT...

...

WHY...

...AM I UPSET?

JUST THAT...

...WHAT?

WHAT...

...AM I FEELING?

ISN'T THIS WHAT I WANTED?

WE CAN DROP THE ACT NOW.

SO... WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?

IT'S BEST THIS WAY FOR BOTH SIDES.

I'M SORRY, CHITOGE.

ALL OF A SUDDEN WE'RE MOVING AWAY?

WHAT'S GOING ON, DADDY?!

BEE HIVE

WELL, YES...

!

...YOU WANTED TO BE DONE WITH THAT FALSE RELATIONSHIP, RIGHT?

BESIDES ...

I'LL HAVE A GOOD TALK WITH CLAUDE AND MAKE SURE THINGS WON'T GO LIKE THEY DID FOR YOU IN JUNIOR HIGH...

BUT...

BUT...

I'M SURE YOU'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE LOTS OF FRIENDS NOW IN THE STATES.

...I FINALLY HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS HERE!

YES... I'M VERY SORRY.

HER TIME AT HOME WILL STILL BE LIMITED, OF COURSE...

...BUT AT LEAST IT'LL BE MUCH MORE THAN NOW.

SHE'S BASED IN THE STATES THESE DAYS.

HANA'S EXCITED TOO.

MOM...

...

...WHEN WE MOVE BACK, YOUR MOTHER WILL BE ABLE TO LIVE WITH US.

AND ALSO...

!

I KNOW IT'S HARD...

...BUT YOU UNDER-STAND, DON'T YOU?

CHITOGEEEEE AND TSUGUMIIIII!!

TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK TAK

CH-CH-CH-CH-

I JUST HEARD LAST NIGHT TOO.

I'M STILL IN SHOCK...

SO IT WAS REALLY SUDDEN...

WELL, I'M SURE YOUR FAMILY HAS ITS REASONS...

S-SORRY, KOSAKI... IT WAS A SURPRISE TO ME TOO.

W-W-WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US?!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT MOVING AWAY?!

AND I WANTED TO GET THE DETAILS FROM MY DAD BEFORE TELLING ANYONE...

AND I WANTED TO BORROW MORE BOOKS FROM YOU, RURI!

DON'T WORRY. YOU STILL CAN!

I WAS HOPING TO LEARN MORE ENGLISH FROM YOU...

STILL ... WE'LL MISS YOU.

...

KIRISAKI...

...

WHAT?

TEE HEE HEE HEE... TEE HEE HEE...

HEE HEE...

I'LL SEND YOU A NEW YEAR'S POSTCARD WITH A FAMILY PICTURE...

AH HA HA HA HA! LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!!

YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE... I'M REALLY SAD HERE!

DON'T REFER TO MY DARLING AS YOUR FAMILY!!

LIAR!!

I'M SO SORRY TO SEE YOU GO!

PAT

SOB

SNIFFLE

OH... YEAH... WELL...

SO MUCH FOR OUR CLASS COUPLE!

SO YOU AND ICHIJO WILL DO THE LONG-DISTANCE THING?

YOU'LL BE FINE WHEREVER YOU GO, KIRISAKI!

BUT... DON'T WORRY!

Cheer up!!

GEE... I DON'T KNOW HOW TO REACT...

OKAY...

I-I KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO CHANGE SCHOOLS...

OH...

PLIP PLIP

WHY'RE YOU CRYING, MS. YUI?!

WE'LL GIVE YOU A BIG SEND-OFF!!

WE NEED TO HAVE A GOODBYE PARTY!

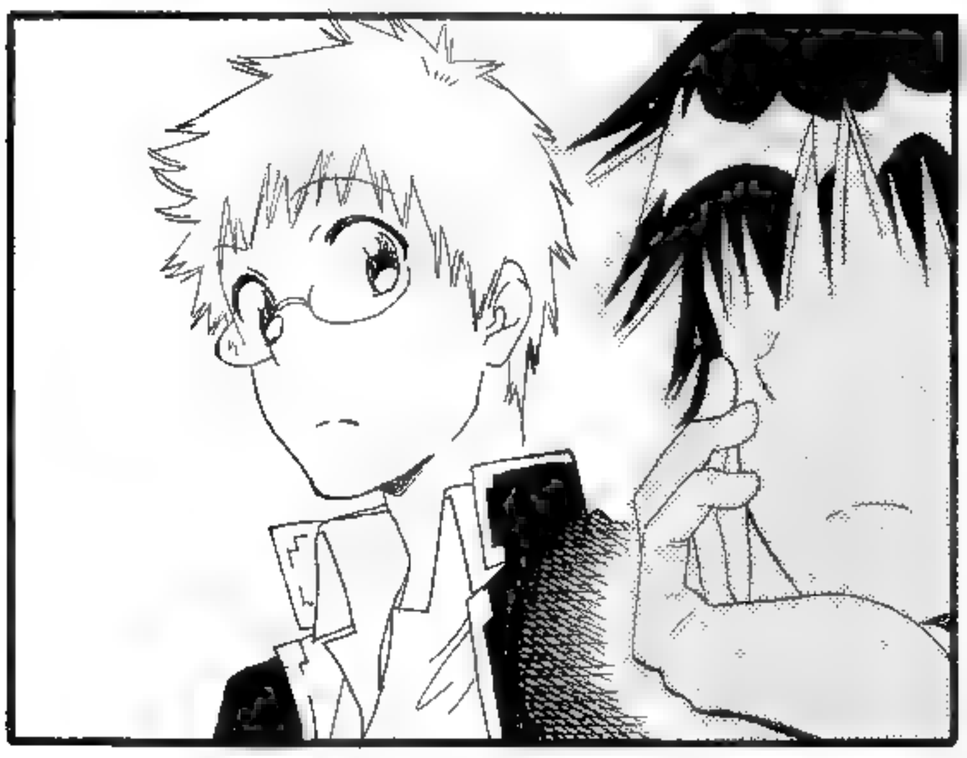
HEY, EVERYONE WANNA HANG OUT AFTER SCHOOL TODAY? MY TREAT!!

THIS WEEKEND?! THAT'S SO SOON!!

THE MADONNA AND PRINCE OF OUR CLASS... WE'LL MISS YOU SO MUCH!!

***WAAAH!*** KIRISAKI AND TSUGUMI ARE LEAVING?!

OH, YOU GUYS...



SEEMS LIKE THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY...

SHEESH...

OUR DADS CAN BE PRETTY LAME SOMETIMES.

...

YEAH...

...

YEAH...

YOU OKAY, CHITOGE?

AFTER ALL, IT'S WORKED OUT SO FAR...

IF WE DO A GOOD JOB AT BEING FALSE LOVERS, WE CAN PREVENT OUR FAMILIES FROM FIGHTING, RIGHT?

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...

...

I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE EVERYONE!

I DON'T WANT TO GO!

I...

WHAT DO YOU CARE, RIGHT?!

HMPH!

...WE'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE AS NORMAL TEENAGERS.

AND IF WE DON'T HAVE PEOPLE WATCHING OVER US ALL THE TIME...

WE CAN'T BE SURE IT'LL ALWAYS WORK LIKE IT HAS SO FAR.

BUT THERE'RE STILL PLENTY OF LITTLE SCUFFLES ...

MY LEAVING...

...THIS IS JUST A BIG RELIEF TO YOU.

I'M SURE ...

AND YOU CAN BE THROUGH WITH OUR FALSE RELATION-SHIP!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAVE ALL YOUR FRIENDS!

THIS IS JUST FINE AND DANDY FOR YOU!

YOU KNOW...

I *THOUGHT* I WOULD FEEL THAT WAY.

YOU STILL...

*WHAT?!*

...I JUST CAN'T REALLY ACCEPT IT.

I DON'T REALLY UNDER-STAND IT, BUT...

I THOUGHT I'D BE HAPPIER.

ALL THIS TIME, WE BOTH WANTED TO GET OUT OF THIS, RIGHT?

PLUS, EVERYONE ELSE IS SAD YOU'RE LEAVING.

AND ALSO...

I FEEL BAD FOR YOU.

...YOU'LL MISS ME TOO?

YOU MEAN...

HUH?!

I...

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!

WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER A WHILE NOW.

...FEEL THAT WAY.

I DO...

I WISH YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE.

BUT...

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT TOGETHER.

I DON'T KNOW...

...WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.

WELL, THAT MAKES SENSE.

AT SOME POINT ALONG THE WAY...

...I'VE COME TO SEE HER AS A FRIEND.

OF COURSE I'M SAD TO SEE A FRIEND MOVE AWAY.

OH...

THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.

I'M SAD THAT SHE'S LEAVING.

IS THAT REALLY...

...ALL IT IS?

BA

M!!

I WANT ...

...TO STAY HERE ON MY OWN!!

I CAN, CAN'T I?

PLEASE, DADDY!!

CHITOGE ...

...

I WANT TO GRADUATE WITH THE FRIENDS I MADE HERE!

I REALLY WANT TO STAY!

I'M AFRAID IT'S ENTIRELY OUT OF THE QUESTION.

FROM A SECURITY STANDPOINT, WE JUST CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE IN JAPAN.

IT'S JUST NOT POSSIBLE.

I'M SORRY, MISTRESS.

THAT'S ...

TSUGUMI CAN STAY TOO!!

W-WELL...

...THEN...

M-MIS-TRESS...

RIGHT? YOU'LL DO IT, WON'T YOU?

SHE CAN HANDLE ANYONE THAT MESSES WITH ME!

SHE'S BEEN MY BODYGUARD ALL THIS TIME.

IF SHE'S WITH ME, THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, RIGHT?!

I'M JUST THE FRONT-LINE OPERATIVE.

WE'VE KEPT YOU SAFE BY MEANS OF A CITYWIDE NETWORK OF BEEHIVE OFFICERS.

I HAVEN'T PROTECTED YOU ALL THIS TIME SINGLE-HANDEDLY.

BONKO

BEE HIVE

BONYARI CITY

BUT I CAN'T DO THAT.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

?!

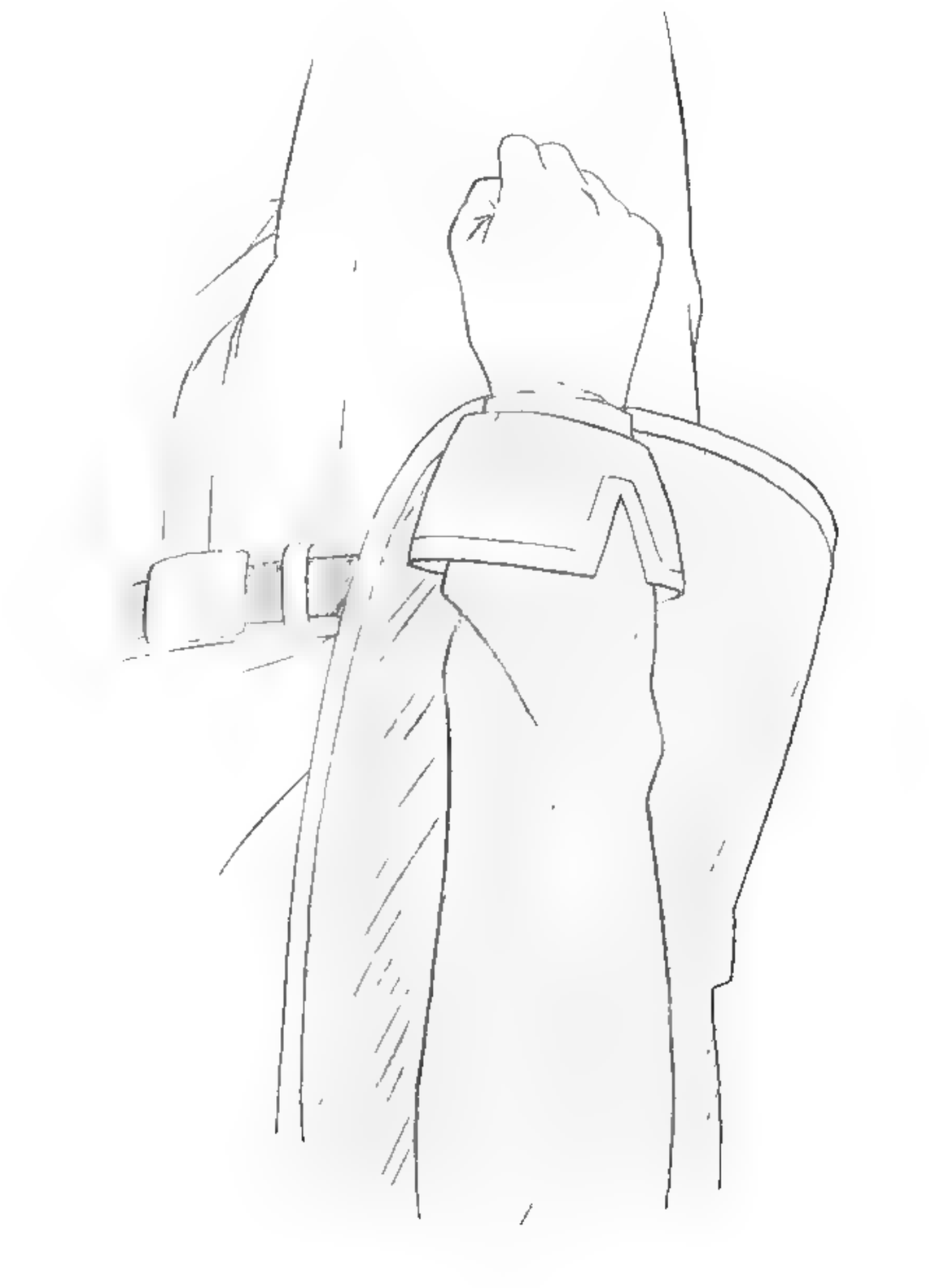
...I CAN'T GUARANTEE I COULD FEND THEM OFF ALONE.

...IF A WHOLE GANG DECIDED TO COME AFTER YOU ALL AT ONCE...

WITHOUT THE GANG'S DEFENSE NETWORK ...

SO...

OH NO...



# Chapter 158: Question

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE.

IT SEEMS THAT OUR OWN PAULA MCCOY IS GOING TO BE TRANSFERRING. THIS IS HER LAST WEEK HERE.

SHE'S RETURNING TO AMERICA...

JUST ONE MORE WEEK... THAT'S SO SOON!

YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING, PAULA?!

HUH?! TRANS-FERRING?!

HEY, MCCOY, DON'T CRY, NOW.

YOU GONNA BE OKAY ON YOUR OWN, MCCOY?

SO WE'RE LOSING MCCOY, HUH?

AS IF I'D CRY!!

"McCoy this,.. McCoy that... Shaddup already!!

THANKS FOR EVERY-THING, I GUESS.

THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS.

I HAD SOME GOOD TIMES HERE.

HEH HEH!

NO, THAT WON'T BE NECES-SARY.

WANT US TO COME SEE YOU OFF?

WELL, NO NEED TO PUT UP A HAPPY FRONT, MCCOY.

I ONLY CAME HERE TO HAVE A BIT OF FUN.

I REALLY BELONG BACK HOME IN AMERICA.

HMPH! I'M ACTUALLY RELIEVED!

DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE GONNA MISS...

HMM? WHAT IS IT, HARU?

TMP

PAULA...

AND JUST WHEN WE WERE GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER.

I'LL MISS YOU...

YOU'RE REALLY LEAVING, PAULA?

SKWEEZ

I'B NOT CWYING!!

IT'S OKAY TO CRY, MCCOY.

AH! HERE COME THE WATER-WORKS.

WAHHHHH!!

HEYYY,

HEY, HEY!

TEAR

Okay, you can actually stop crying now.

Uhhhhh.

OH? THAT YOU, TSUGUMI?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN HERE?

RAKU ICHIJO.

I'M... NO, IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

JUST CAME TO GET SOME TEA.

THE OTHER MACHINES ARE ALL SOLD OUT.

I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHY...

I RECEIVED THESE FROM THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES MY FAN-CLUB MEMBERS.

OH, THIS?

UH... WHAT'S WITH ALL THAT STUFF?

She's just that popular, I guess.

YOU HAVE A FAN CLUB?

KLANG

KLUNK

NO...

I DON'T THINK I WILL.

ARE YOU STILL GONNA GO TO SCHOOL ONCE YOU'RE IN AMERICA?

YOU'RE RELOCATING SOON...

RIGHT?

KLIK

Mm. Thanks.

Here you go.

RIGHT...

I DON'T EXPECT WE'LL EVER MEET AGAIN.

JUST LIKE BEFORE, I'LL MOVE FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY ON VARIOUS MISSIONS.

BUT THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY ANYMORE.

THE ONLY REASON I ATTENDED THIS SCHOOL WAS BECAUSE CLAUDE ORDERED ME TO WATCH OVER YOU AND MY MISTRESS.

YOU'LL PROBABLY MISS US TOO, THOUGH.

AFTER HAVING SO MUCH FUN HERE AT THIS SCHOOL...

SHF

WHA ...?!

MISS YOU ...?

THE MISSION IS ALL THAT MATT—

NO.

YOU'RE EXACTLY RIGHT.

HONESTLY, I...

THE DAYS I'VE SPENT ATTENDING THIS SCHOOL...

AT SOME POINT, IT JUST BEGAN TO FEEL RIGHT.

SPENDING TIME WITH CLASSMATES MY OWN AGE.

LIVING SUCH AN ORDINARY LIFE.

I NEVER FORGOT THE MISSION, BUT...

...I STILL HAD SO MANY WONDERFUL EXPERIENCES.

IT WAS ACTUALLY A LOT OF FUN.

RAKU ICHIJO, I...

I'M FILLED WITH SUCH PITIFUL FEELINGS.

HUH?

...

I CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW SAD AND LONELY MY MISTRESS FEELS.

I EVEN FIND MYSELF RELUCTANT TO PART WITH YOU ALL.

SKWEEZ

250ml

IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT BEING STRONG ENOUGH.

HOW GLAD SHE IS TO HAVE SPENT TIME WITH ONODERA, MIYAMOTO AND ALL THE OTHERS.

MY MISTRESS IS ALWAYS SAYING...

...HOW SHE'S SO GLAD SHE CAME TO JAPAN.

I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH NECESSARY TO ALLOW MY MISTRESS TO STAY HERE IN JAPAN...

IT'S SO FRUS-TRATING!

IF ONLY I...

I WISH I HAD THE STRENGTH TO PROTECT MY MISTRESS BY MYSELF, NO MATTER WHERE SHE GOES...

BUT AT TIMES LIKE THIS, I'M POWERLESS TO HELP HER...

TSUGUMI ...

RAKU ICHIJO ...

DON'T MAKE MY MISTRESS LONELIER THAN SHE HAS TO BE...

...BECAUSE SHE'S ALREADY GOING TO MISS YOU MORE THAN SHE WILL ANYONE ELSE.

WRITE HER OFTEN.

SURE. I'LL DO MY BEST.

MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE? YEAH, RIGHT.

YOU TOO. BE SURE TO KEEP IN TOUCH.

I'LL EMAIL YOU NOW AND THEN.

HUH?!

YOU'VE DONE A LOT FOR ME.

...I KNOW I'M GONNA MISS YOU WHEN YOU'RE GONE.

I HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOU FEEL, BUT...

NO SPECIAL REASON. JUST THAT I'LL BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

HUH? WHY?

W-WHY?!

I-I SEE...

WELL, YOU CAN DO AS YOU PLEASE...

SURE. I WILL.

RAKU ICHIJO...

THIS MAY BE THE LAST CHANCE I GET TO SAY THIS TO YOU, SO...

...THAT YOU WERE MY MISTRESS'S BOYFRIEND.

I'M GLAD...

TSU-GUMI...

...

...DID WELL BY HER.

YOU REALLY...

AND WHAT MIGHT THIS BE?

...

SLAM!

NO NEED TO WORRY WITH THIS MANY, RIGHT?!

TEN MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY WHO'VE AGREED TO STAY WITH ME HERE IN JAPAN!

I GATHERED SIGNA-TURES.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

OF COURSE, TSUGUMI CAN STAY TOO!

ALL FOR MY SAKE...

NO NEED TO WATCH OVER THE WHOLE CITY ANYMORE.

NOT TO MENTION, A MERE TEN SOLDIERS IS HARDLY ENOUGH TO ENSURE YOUR PROTECTION, MISTRESS.

IT WOULD REMOVE ALL MEANING FROM OUR UPCOMING MOVE.

IT WOULD BE NO DIFFERENT THAN SENDING SPARKS AT THE POWDER KEG THAT IS THE SHUEI-GUMI.

WE CAN'T LEAVE SO MANY BEEHIVE MEMBERS BEHIND IN JAPAN.

SHP

NOT EVEN FIFTY... NOT EVEN A HUNDRED WOULD BE ENOUGH!

YOU STUBBORN BLOCKHEAD!

IF THAT IS ALL, I MUST BE GOING.

KEEPING TREASURE SAFELY STOWED AWAY IN A VAULT IS MERELY COMMON SENSE.

WOULD YOU LEAVE A PRICELESS TREASURE OUTSIDE YOUR HOME IN THE GARDEN, MISTRESS?

MISTRESS, YOU ARE MORE VALUABLE TO US THAN THE MOST PRECIOUS OF JEWELS.

CHITOGE, WOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPY LIVING WITH HANA?

CAN I AT LEAST ASK YOU THIS?

I REFUSE TO MOVE AWAY FROM HERE!

I'M NOT GIVING UP YET.

I KNOW MOM WOULD UNDER-STAND!

THERE ARE PEOPLE I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND!

BUT I ALSO LOVE MY LIFE HERE!

WELL, SURE I WOULD!

I'D BE HAPPY!

SLAM

Just kidding...

...YOU'VE ACTUALLY COME TO LIKE RAKU AND DON'T WANT TO BE PARTED FROM HIM?

COULD IT BE...

KRASH

PEOPLE YOU DON'T WANT TO LEAVE BEHIND?

...

OH?

IT'S NOT LIKE I ACTUALLY EVER LIKED HIM!

WE'VE ONLY PRETENDED TO BE IN LOVE.

WHA ...?!

BLUSH

OF COURSE NOT. DON'T BE SILLY, DAD. LIKE THAT COULD EVER HAPPEN!!

SEE YOU LATER, DAD!

SH- SHEESH!

RIGHT. TIME FOR ME TO THINK UP ANOTHER PLAN!

I'M REALLY SORRY, CHITOGE ...

What have I done?

OH BOY...

Ugh...

Uhhh...

...PASSED BY BEFORE WE KNEW IT, ALL WHILE CHITOGE STRUGGLED IN VAIN...

THE NEXT FEW DAYS...

BUT AT LAST...

OOF!

IT WAS CHITOGE AND THE OTHERS' LAST DAY.

SEEMS LIKE PAULA AND THE OTHER FIRST-YEARS ARE COMING TOO.

SHOULD BE A GOOD TIME, I THINK.

I RENTED OUT THE SAME PLACE WE USED FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARTY LAST YEAR.

SO WE'RE HAVING THAT FAREWELL PARTY AFTER SCHOOL TODAY, RIGHT?

...

GUESS SO.

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE KIRISAKI AND THE OTHERS ARE GONNA BE GONE AFTER TODAY.

I'LL MISS 'EM.

SHE'S BEEN PRETTY BUSY LATELY. LOTS OF STUFF GOING ON AT HER HOUSE...

SHE MOSTLY JUST INVITES OTHER GIRLS OVER TO HANG OUT WHEN SHE'S FREE.

HMM... ...

YOU NEVER TALK ABOUT HER TO ME.

ANYTHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND KIRISAKI, RAKU?

Make any more moves?

BUT NO, NOTHING, REALLY.

NAH... IT'S NOT LIKE I'M AVOIDING THE SUBJECT.

YOU DUMMY.

THE DAY WHEN YOU CAN FINALLY START DATING ONODERA IS PROBABLY NOT SO FAR AWAY.

NO MORE PRETENDING TO BE IN LOVE.

BUT YOU MUST BE RELIEVED.

Science Lab

...AND THEN...

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO HAVE TO DATE SOMEONE ...

EVEN IF I DON'T HAFTA PRETEND ANYMORE ...

SAYING GOODBYE SO SUDDENLY LIKE THIS... IT'S UNNATURAL. THE OTHER KIDS DON'T GET IT. MY FAMILY TOO.

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

HUH?

HEY, RAKU...

WHO DO YOU LIKE MORE?

RIGHT NOW...

BETWEEN ONODERA AND KIRISAKI...

HUH?

...

Hana...
I'm afraid
Chitoge
hates
me...
Huh
?

BETWEEN ONODERA AND KIRISAKI...

RIGHT NOW...

WHO DO YOU LIKE MORE?

# Chapter 159: Great Plan

HUH?

...

AND YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW WHO I LIKE...

YEAH, I KNOW.

WHY BRING UP CHITOGE NOW?

COME ON. WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?

SHE'S A FRIEND. THAT'S ALL.

WE USED TO HATE EACH OTHER AND FIGHT ALL THE TIME, BUT THAT'S IN THE PAST...

*Well, we still fight, but...*

THINK ABOUT HER...?

STILL.

WHADDYA THINK ABOUT KIRISAKI?

HMM...

THAT'S IT? REALLY?

HUH?

...IT'S STARTED TO SEEM LIKE YOU THINK OF KIRISAKI AS MORE THAN JUST ANOTHER GIRL.

WELL... SEEING YOU LATELY, RAKU...

JUST COME OUT AND SAY WHAT YOU MEAN...

WHADDYA MEAN, "THAT'S IT?"

I THINK YOU'VE STARTED TO LIKE HER.

IN SHORT...

WHAAAAAT?!

I MEAN, IT'S TRUE, I DON'T HATE HER ANYMORE, BUT YOU KNOW I LIKE ONODERA!!

WHY WOULD YOU EVEN ...?

WHAT YOU'RE SAYING COULD NEVER HAPPEN!

REALLY?

NO BIG DEAL, THEN.

OH YEAH?

I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT SO.

*THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN, YOU IDIOT!*

*THAT...*

BUT...

HUH?

I DON'T GET IT...

SO YOU CAN DECIDE WITHOUT ANY REGRETS.

YOU SHOULD TRY BEING A BIT MORE OBSERVANT OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU, RAKU.

WHAT THE HECK?!

SAYING THAT I LIKE CHITOGE??

MWA HA HA HA HA! JUST A WORD OF CAUTION FOR YOU, GOOD OL' FRIEND O' MINE! ♡

MORON'S RUNNING AWAY!

DASH

THAT...

THAT COULD NEVER HAPPEN...

AND WHAT?

SAYING I LIKE CHITOGE MORE THAN ONODERA?

GOING HOME?

OH, ICHIJO.

WHAT IS IT?

?

EVEN WHEN DRESSED AS A KITCHEN MAID!

DAMN, SHE'S CUTE.

?

MAKING A CAKE FOR THE FAREWELL PARTY.

WHAT'RE YOU UP TO, ONODERA?

I'm in charge of decoration.

YOU'RE MISTAKEN. DEFINITELY MISTAKEN.

NOTHING LIKE HER SMILE TO MAKE ME FORGET MY TROUBLES AND GET MY HEART POUNDING.

SEE, SHU? I LIKE ONODERA.

Heh heh!

I was worried...

BUT I SAW HER MOPING AROUND HERE. SHE DIDN'T LOOK WELL...

SHE WENT SOMEWHERE RIGHT AFTER SCHOOL.

OH... WELL...

ON THAT NOTE, HAVE YOU SEEN CHITOGE?

SEEMS LIKE CAKE DECORATING IS ALL I CAN DO FOR HER...

SHUP

DON'T THINK LIKE THAT!

I'M SURE SHE'LL BE THRILLED.

I ALSO WISH SHE COULD STAY HERE IN JAPAN, BUT...

SHE TOLD ME WHY SHE'S MOVING.

SHE...

I JUST WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD DO TO HELP...

BUT I ALSO UNDER-STAND HOW HER FATHER AND FAMILY FEEL.

I KNOW HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT IT.

I'M NOT SURE WHAT I CAN DO.

SAME HERE, THOUGH ...

THEN...

HUH?

WHY NOT HELP HER?

I MEAN, I WANNA HELP TOO.

BUT I DON'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT HER FAMILY SITUATION.

SO I DOUBT THERE'S ANYTHING I COULD DO.

BUT YOU'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS, ICHIJO.

YOU SHOULD KNOW ALL ABOUT IT.

YOU'VE SPENT A LOT OF TIME WITH CHITOGE FOR YOUR FALSE RELATIONSHIP, RIGHT?

I'D SAY YOU'RE ACTUALLY THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN REALLY HELP HER NOW.

IF YOU LENT HER AN EAR AND WORKED WITH HER...

WELL, I'M NOT SAYING YOU COULD PREVENT HER FROM MOVING, BUT...

...I'M SURE IT'D MAKE HER HAPPY.

Fire Extingui

THANKS, ONODERA!

I'M OFF TO LOOK FOR CHITOGE!

DASH!

RIGHT!

GOOD LUCK!

ONO-DERA...

HUH?

BACK FROM SHOPPING, RURI?

*Welcome back.*

HUH?!

WHY?!

*Out of no-where!*

YOU...

YOU'RE A HOPELESS IDIOT.

*Sigh...*

I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT OF HELPING HER SOONER...

...WHILE I'VE JUST BEEN GOING ABOUT MY BUSINESS.

I'M SUCH A DUMMY.

SHE'S BEEN STRESSING ABOUT THIS ALL ALONE...

GLO

OM

NO, THIS IS PERFECT. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO GO LOOK FOR YOU.

HUH?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

OH, RAKU...

YOU OKAY...?

H-HEY, CHITOGE.

DOOOM!!

HUH?!

LISTEN UP. I'VE COME UP WITH A GREAT PLAN!

SHUP

SO...

I TOLD THEM BEFORE ABOUT HOW I COULD LIVE HERE ALONE.

BUT THEY SAID NO, SAYING HOW I HAVE TO BE GUARDED ALL THE TIME...

YES. A GREAT PLAN. EXACTLY.

IT'LL BE SURE TO MAKE FATHER AND THEM UNDER-STAND!

SHE'S FULL OF ENER-GY...

A GREAT PLAN ...?

H-H-H-HOLD ON. WHAT'S GOING ON?

WAIT A SEC!!

WHAT'RE YOU SAYING EXACTLY?

IN OTHER WORDS ...

I'D BE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE SHUEI-GUMI!

WHAT IF I LIVE AT YOUR PLACE?

WHA-?!

BABAM

I'M ON GOOD TERMS WITH YOUR PEOPLE, SO I BET IF I JUST ASK...

IF THERE'S ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION IN TOWN WHOSE AUTHORITY CLAUDE RESPECTS, IT'S THE SHUEI-GUMI.

SO THEY COULD JUST WATCH OVER ME TOO!

JUST LIKE MY OWN FAMILY, THE SHUEI-GUMI HAS GUARDS POSTED ALL AROUND TOWN TO WATCH OVER YOU, RIGHT?

I'D NEVER JOKE ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS!

YEAH, I'M SERIOUS!!

SERIOUSLY ?!

YOU SAID "LIVE." YOU'D BE LIVING WITH ME?

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT! THIS IS TOO MUCH, TOO FAST!

I MEAN, JUST THINK ABOUT IT FOR A SEC!

WOULD YOUR FATHER AND FOUR-EYES REALLY EVER LET YOU LIVE AT MY PLACE?

IT'S TOO UNREASONABLE. IT'D NEVER WORK!

I GET YOUR REASON-ING.

BUT WE CAN'T HAVE A YOUNG GIRL LIVING IN SUCH A GROSS PLACE WITH ALL THOSE MEN!

YUI IS MORE LIKE A BIG SIS...

WHY NOT? YOU'VE GOT YUI THERE, DON'T YOU?

RIGHT...

IT WOULDN'T.

SORRY ...

I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY...

"I'D SAY YOU'RE ACTUALLY THE ONLY ONE...

"...WHO CAN REALLY HELP HER NOW."

BUT I GUESS THIS IS THE CORNER SHE'S BEEN DRIVEN INTO...

LIVING WITH ME... IT WOULD'VE BEEN UNTHINKABLE TO HER A WHILE BACK.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE ACTUALLY CAME UP WITH THAT IDEA.

Y'KNOW ...

MAYBE IT'S NOT SUCH A BAD IDEA.

SHEESH...

YEAH, I'M SERIOUS !!

MY DAD, RYU AND THE OTHERS...

I'LL TRY CONVINC-ING THEM.

OKAY!

HUH?

I'M SAYING I'LL HELP YOU OUT.

I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL ALLOW IT, BUT AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, YOU CAN STAY IF YOU WANT.

IF YOU ENDED UP NOT HAVING TO MOVE...

...THAT'D BE BEST FOR EVERYONE.

LIKE I SAID.

BEFORE WAS BEFORE.

I CHANGED MY MIND.

BEFORE, YOU SAID...!

B-B-B-BUT WHY?

ONODERA AND THE OTHERS WOULD MISS YOU TWO.

AND I KNOW THAT IF YOU AND TSUGUMI LEFT... WELL...

IT'S A LITTLE DRASTIC, BUT THEN AGAIN, THEY MADE US DO SOMETHING DRASTIC TOO...

OWWWW...!!

RAGU!!!!!!!!!!

GLOOMP

I GET IT, ALREADY. CALM DOWN...!

WAHHHHH!!

IF I... CAN STAY... IN JAPAN...

B-B-B-BUT...

COME ON... DON'T HUG ME LIKE THAT. THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL!!

I HEARD SHE'D BE LIVING WITH HANA IF SHE WENT TO AMERICA.

I DON'T KNOW IF I'M DOING THE WRONG THING HERE.

BUT...

WAAAAAH

I THINK I HAVE A GOOD IDEA, GIVEN HOW WE WERE BOTH RAISED IN SIMILAR ENVIRON-MENTS.

JUST HOW IMPORTANT ARE HER FRIENDS AND THE RELATION-SHIPS SHE'S MADE HERE IN JAPAN?

JUST...

U

AFTER ALL, SHE'S A...

AND WHO CARES IF IT'S WRONG.

I WANT TO HELP HER.

U

WELL ...

YOUR DAD AND FOUR-EYES...

ASSUMING I CAN CONVINCE MY PEOPLE, WHAT'LL YOU DO ABOUT YOURS?

BUT WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?

...FRIEND.

I KNOW THEY'D JUST STOP ME IF I SAID ANYTHING.

I'M NOT SURE HOW FATHER WOULD REACT, BUT CLAUDE WILL BE MAD!

SERI-OUSLY?

YOU'LL RUN AWAY FROM HOME?

I'LL SNEAK OUT WITHOUT A WORD AND HIDE AT YOUR PLACE.

I'LL KEEP IT A SECRET ...

...FROM FATHER AND CLAUDE.

I'LL TELL HER THE PLAN.

HOPEFULLY I CAN CONVINCE HER TO GO ALONG.

WHAT ABOUT TSUGUMI?

I'LL BRING MY STUFF OVER TODAY, GO BACK SO I CAN CATCH MY FLIGHT TOMORROW AND RUN AWAY TO YOUR PLACE RIGHT BEFORE IT TAKES OFF.

MY FLIGHT'S TOMOR-ROW MORNING.

Guess another moocher doesn't make much of a difference.

Oh yeah?

IT MIGHT JUST HAPPEN THAT WE BOTH END UP FREELOADING OFF OF YOU.

I HAVE A FEELING SHE ALSO WANTS TO STAY IN JAPAN.

YEAH.

YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?

IF I WANNA BRING MY LUGGAGE OVER, THIS IS MY ONLY CHANCE!

FLAP

I'LL GO HOME AND GET READY!

RIGHT, THEN! NO TIME TO LOSE. LET'S MOVE!

GOT IT!

LET'S MEET UP THERE!

YOU KNOW THE PARK RIGHT BETWEEN OUR HOUSES?

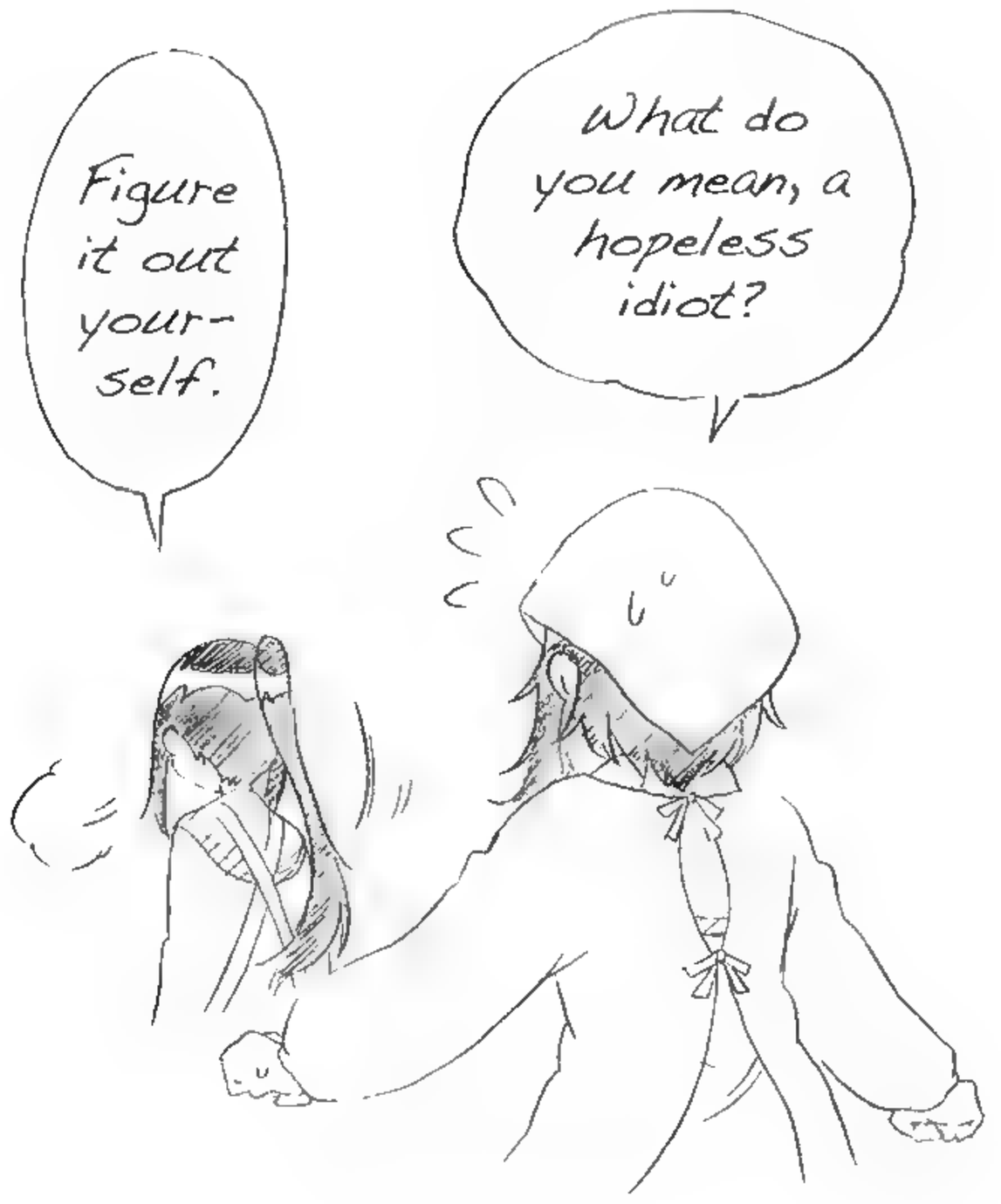


Figure it out your-self.
What do you mean, a hopeless idiot?

YOU?!

AT RAKU ICHIJO'S HOUSE?!

A LIVE-IN GUEST?!

# Chapter 160: Separation

PLEASE, TSUGUMI!

IT'S THE ONLY WAY!

HMM... WITH THE SHUEI-GUMI'S HELP, SECURITY WOULDN'T BE AN ISSUE...

BUT...AS A BEEHIVE MEMBER...

...I CANNOT DISOBEY THE ORGANIZA-TION I SERVE...

WHEREVER YOU ARE AND WHATEVER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, MY DUTY IS TO PROTECT YOU.

I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO ASSIST YOU.

MY LOYALTY TO YOU SUPER-SEDES MY ALLEGIANCE TO THE BEEHIVE.

NO... I TAKE THAT BACK, MIS-TRESS.

THANK YOU, MISTRESS.

THAT MEANS A LOT.

MOST OF ALL, I APPRECIATE YOUR TRUST.

Thanks!!!

TSU-GUMI!!!!

SO... WHAT ABOUT YOU, TSUGUMI?

HUH?

IT'S CERTAINLY A BOLD PLAN.

Yep!

GREAT! WITH TSUGUMI ON YOUR SIDE, YOU'RE GOLDEN!

WHAT?! NO, TSUGUMI, THANK *YOU*!

What an idea!

I'D FEEL SO MUCH BETTER HAVING YOU WITH ME.

I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU'D RESPOND...

KOFF... KOFF...

I-IS THAT REALLY OKAY? YOU'RE ONE THING, MISTRESS, BUT AS FOR ME...

BLRE

WANNA LIVE AT RAKU'S HOUSE WITH ME?

OF COURSE, WE DON'T KNOW YET FOR SURE ABOUT HER EITHER...

THERE'S NO REASON WHY YOU CAN'T STAY WITH CHITOGE.

I THINK IT'LL BE FINE.

THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR MORE.

I-I don't believe it...

THE MISTRESS AND I...LIVING WITH RAKU ICHIJO?!

OH MY!! I NEVER IMAGINED THIS WOULD HAPPEN...!

ATTA GIRL, TSUGUMI! HOORAY!

AFTER ALL, SOMEONE'S GOT TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T PULL ANY MOVES ON HER...

W...

W-W-W-WELL... THEN I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO IT...

Hey, now...

...IT'S MY JOB TO MAKE THIS WORK OUT!

WELL, EVEN IF IT IS...

THIS ISN'T A MISTAKE, RIGHT?

I'D BE A BIT WORRIED IF IT WAS ME...

It's like a secret mission!

THIS IS SO FUN!

YAY! I'M GETTING EXCITED!

AS SOON AS YOU GET THEM TO MY HOUSE, WE'LL GO TO THE PARTY AND TELL EVERYONE!

OKAY... GO AHEAD AND GET YOUR BAGS!

THANK YOU!!

SEE YOU SOON, RAKU!

OKAY...

SURE.

IT'LL WORK OUT... THE ODDS ARE GOOD!

RYU AND THE OTHERS LOVE CHITOGE...

DAD'LL BE BACK TONIGHT.

LET'S DO THIS!

?

WELCOME HOME...

...MIS-TRESS...

SHOOM

WE'RE HOOOOME!!

I'LL STAND MY GROUND, NO MATTER WHAT!

BUT...

THEY'LL PROBABLY BE UPSET...

WHAT'LL MOM AND DAD SAY?

I CAN STAY!

I CAN STAY IN JAPAN!

I KNOW I WON'T REGRET THIS!

...THERE ARE THINGS I CAN ONLY EXPERIENCE HERE AND NOW.

BUT...

I KNOW IT'S CRAZY.

THE SAME HOUSE...

TOGETHER...

I'LL BE LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE AS RAKU...

AND LOTS OF OTHER PEOPLE TOO. STILL, UNDER THE SAME ROOF...

WELL, YUI AND TSUGUMI WILL BE THERE TOO...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!

EEEK!!

WHEN DID I GET TO BE SO CRAZY ABOUT HIM?!

I'M SO EXCITED, I'M GONNA EXPLODE!!

MIS-TRESS!

A MOMENT, PLEASE?

JOLT

TOK TOK

GOTTA TAKE CARE SO NOBODY FINDS ME OUT...

TOSS TOSS TOSS

ANYWAY, BETTER HURRY UP AND PACK!

DADDY?

THE BOSS WANTS A WORD WITH YOU...

IT WON'T TAKE LONG.

WOULD YOU COME WITH ME FOR A MOMENT?

WHAT IS IT? I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING...

CLAUDE?

IN HERE.

BUT NO MATTER WHAT HE SAYS...

THE MOVE, I GUESS...

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?

BUT THIS ISN'T DADDY'S OFFICE...

?

AND DADDY'S NOT HERE...

KUHAK!!

SLAM!!

OPEN UP!!

MIS-TRESS...

CLAUDE, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?! WHY DID YOU LOCK THE DOOR?!

HEY!!

I ABSOLUTELY CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO LIVE WITH THE SHUEI-GUMI.

?!

WHA—?!

I PLANTED A BUG ON YOU.

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY.

WH...

WHAT?

WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?!

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT, CLAUDE?!

I MIGHT ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTION.

YOU CAN REMOVE IT NOW.

UNDER YOUR COLLAR, ON YOUR BACK.

WELL, IT SEEMS I WAS RIGHT.

YOU SEEMED SO UPSET THESE PAST FEW DAYS.

I FEARED YOU MIGHT DO SOMETHING RASH.

I DON'T THINK HE FOUND OUT ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP BEING FAKE...

BUT STILL...

THREE DAYS?!

THANK HEAVENS WE DIDN'T TALK MUCH THESE PAST FEW DAYS...

I SHOULD HOPE SO, YOU MORON!!

How dare you violate a woman's privacy!!

OF COURSE, I TURNED THE DEVICE OFF WHEN YOU WERE IN THE BATHROOM...

DON'T WORRY. I ONLY BUGGED YOU FOR THREE DAYS.

BAM

HOW DARE YOU?! LET ME OUT, CLAUDE!!

WHAT?!

THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, MISTRESS.

YOU'LL STAY IN THIS ROOM UNTIL JUST BEFORE YOUR FLIGHT BACK TO THE STATES.

I HEARD EVERYTHING. AND I'M AFRAID I CAN'T LET YOU DO THIS, MISTRESS.

34

SHIT

TAKE THAT!!

GAH! I'VE HAD IT!!

YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP ME IN HERE WITH THIS STUPID DOOR?!

YEEOWNCH!!

BO-YO-YO-YOING

RATTLE RATTLE

I NEGLECTED TO MENTION, THAT DOOR IS REINFORCED WITH 40 MM OF STEEL.

THE WINDOWS ARE ALSO BULLET- AND SHOCK-PROOF, SO PLEASE DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY.

THAT'S FINE.

I'LL BRING YOU SOMETHING TO EAT LATER.

CLAUDE, YOU JERK!!

I HATE YOU!!

IT'S FOR HER OWN GOOD!!

NO MATTER!!

...SHE'LL COME TO HER SENSES!!

ONCE SHE'S OUT OF JAPAN AND AWAY FROM THAT STUPID PUNK...

SHE HATES ME...

WAAH!!

SHE HATES ME?!

WORMP

!

...I HAVE TO STICK TO MY GUNS.

TAK TAK

FOR THE MISTRESS'S FUTURE BEST INTER-ESTS...

SEISHIRO ...

WHY DID YOU LOCK UP THE MISTRESS ?!

MASTER CLAUDE!

WHAT ON EARTH...?

YOUR ALLEGIANCE TO THE MISTRESS SUPERSEDES THE GROUP.

I'M THE ONE WHO TAUGHT YOU THAT.

YOU'VE DONE NO WRONG.

I KNOW WHAT YOU TWO WERE PLOTTING.

I PLANTED A BUG ON THE YOUNG MISTRESS.

NOW, RETURN TO YOUR REGULAR DUTIES.

THAT'S AN ORDER.

TAK

I WON'T PUNISH YOU FOR YOUR TREACHERY, SINCE YOU ACTED OUT OF LOYALTY TO THE MISTRESS.

BUT IF YOU TRULY WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR THE MISTRESS, OBEY ME NOW.

YES, SIR.

THEY'RE TWO HOURS LATE.

WHAT'S TAKING THEM SO LONG?

DON'T TELL ME...

...SOMETHING HAPPENED?

SHE'S NOT PICKING UP...

THE PARTY STARTS SOON.

GEE, WHERE COULD THEY BE?

...

CHITOGE ...?

YEAH, AND NOBODY CAN REACH THEM!

CHITOGE AND TSUGUMI STILL AREN'T HERE?

THIS ROOM'S TOTALLY CUT OFF.

NO RECEPTION.

I WON'T EVEN SEE EVERYONE AGAIN?

IF I GO STRAIGHT FROM HERE TO MY FLIGHT...

BUT THAT'S...

MY OWN GOOD?!

YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT... AND IT'S NOT TRUE!!

GAH! CLAUDE, YOU IDIOT!! HOW COULD YOU?!

THIS IS IT?

THIS IS THE END?

ALL OF THE AMAZING MEMORIES...

AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER...

I WON'T SEE THEM? ANY OF THEM?

THIS IS GOODBYE...?

I LOVE THEM ALL SO MUCH...

I CAN'T EVEN SAY A PROPER GOODBYE?

THAT WAS IT? I WON'T SEE HIM AGAIN?

SURE!

AND RAKU...

SEE YOU SOON!

THIS IS THE END?

THIS IS GOODBYE?

NO...

I...

I DIDN'T EVEN TELL HIM THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL...

Nghh...

I...

You okay?

I WAS A TOTAL ZOMBIE THE PAST FEW DAYS.

AAÄHHH!!

WAAAAH...

AND RAKU...

NO!

NO...

I WANT TO BE WITH THEM!

I WANT TO BE WITH HIM...

WAAAAAAAAAA

WAAAAA

...

I SWORE MY LOYALTY TO THE MISTRESS, ABOVE ALL ELSE...EVEN THE BEEHIVE.

IF THEIR INTERESTS COME INTO CONFLICT, MY LOYALTY IS TO THE MISTRESS.

EVEN IF...

EVEN IF...

...I HAVE TO OPPOSE THE GROUP...

...

RAKU ICHIJO ...

HELLO, TSUGUMI ?!

WHERE ARE YOU? I WAS WORRIED...

RING

!

SOMETHING MUST'VE HAPPENED ...

THE PARTY'S IN FIVE MINUTES.

?!

I NEED YOUR HELP...

...TO SAVE THE MISTRESS ...

# Chapter 161: Trap

SHE'S LOCKED UP?!

CRU

YES... I SHOULD'VE BEEN MORE VIGILANT...

THAT FOUR-EYED FREAK! WHO DOES THAT?!

HE ACTUALLY BUGGED HER?!

...BUT MASTER CLAUDE USED A NEW PROPRIETARY DEVICE INVENTED BY THE BEEHIVE THAT'S UNDETECTABLE BY OUR STANDARD METHODS.

NORMALLY, I MAKE SURE NOBODY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLANT ANYTHING ON THE MISTRESS...

THEY DON'T SEEM TO BE MONITORING US.

I CHECKED... HE DIDN'T BUG ME.

AND THE PHONE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE TAPPED.

ME?!

WHAT CAN I DO?!

I'LL NEED YOUR HELP.

BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE.

I WANT TO SAVE THE MISTRESS.

EVEN IF IT'S DISLOYAL TO THE BEEHIVE...

!

THE MIS-TRESS...

...WAS CRYING.

THINK IT OVER CARE-FULLY.

YOU'LL BE RISKING YOUR LIFE.

I CAN'T FORCE YOU.

ALL RIGHT. I'LL HELP.

HER FEELINGS, HER DECISION... I CAN'T JUST DISMISS THEM AS IMMATURE, AS A YOUTHFUL MISTAKE...

I WANT TO RESPECT HOW SHE FEELS!

MASTER CLAUDE SAYS IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF HER FUTURE, BUT I DON'T GET IT.

BUT...

I WOULDN'T BE A MAN IF I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP.

ISN'T THAT REASON GOOD ENOUGH?

OF COURSE I DON'T WANT TO BE IN DANGER.

IT COULD BE DANGER-OUS.

YOU SURE?

...THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR.

IF I'M NOT WILLING TO HELP YOU...

BESIDES...

YOU SAID YOU'D HELP US, RIGHT, TSUGUMI?

RIGHT.

I OWE YOU.

SURE.

KA-FLOOP

YOU REALLY LOVE HER...

...DON'T YOU?

SHAKA SHAKA

YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR KIRISAKI, DON'T YOU?

...

THIS IS HOW IT SHOULD BE.

GOOD.

NO NEED TO BE SHY ABOUT IT.

We're dating and all...

OF COURSE ...

UH...

SURE.

IF YOU DIDN'T, YOU WOULDN'T RISK YOUR LIFE FOR HER.

Over here!

FOLLOW MY DIRECTIONS, AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SNEAK IN.

EVERYONE'S BUSY PACKING FOR THE MOVE.

COME STRAIGHT TO THE HOUSE.

KNOCK KNOCK

MASTER CLAUDE? MAY I HAVE A WORD?

THE PLAN IS REALLY SIMPLE...

WHILE I DISTRACT MASTER CLAUDE, YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON THE KEY TO THE ROOM WHERE SHE'S LOCKED UP.

WOULD YOU MIND GOING OVER THEM WITH ME?

...AND I HAVE A FEW CON-CERNS.

I'VE BEEN GOING OVER THE PORT-OF-ENTRY DATA PERTAINING TO OUR NEW LOCATION...

SNEAK SNEAK

TUMP

VERY WELL.

LET'S GO.

THIS IS IT!

This one!

HMM...

CODE 37564...

BEEP BEEP

*NOTE: THE CODE "37564" CAN BE READ IN JAPANESE AS "MINAGOROSHI," WHICH TRANSLATES TO "KILL 'EM ALL."

WHEN YOU GET THE KEY...

...GO STRAIGHT TO THE MISTRESS!

I'M INCLUDING INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO DISARM THEM.

BUT CLAUDE HAS TRAPS SET TO CATCH INTRUDERS.

THE ROOM WHERE SHE'S IMPRISONED IS IN THE ANNEX.

TRAPS, HUH?

IT'S ALL PACKED UP, AND THERE'S HARDLY ANYONE THERE.

TOING

GOTTA BE SUUUPER CAREFUL ...

IF I TRIP ANYTHING, I'M DONE FOR.

WONDER IF THERE'S STUFF LIKE PITFALLS AND INFRARED SENSORS ...

KA-WOOSH

THEY'RE SHOOTING TO KILL!!

SHOONK

CHIK

WHO DOES THIS IN THEIR HOME?!

YIKES!! WE'RE TALKING FULL-ON BOOBY TRAPS HERE!

MOST OF THE TRAPS **WILL KILL YOU,** SO BE VERY CAREFUL!

I DEACTIVATED THE ALARMS THE TRAPS ARE SUPPOSED TO TRIGGER, SO NOBODY WILL BE ALERTED.

RUMBLE RUMBLE

KLAK

RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE

AAAAUGH!! NOOO!! YOU WON'T GET ME!!

WAAUGH! THIS IS INSANE!!

SHWOO

VSHOO!

VSHOO!

ZOOSH!

WHOEVER SET THESE TRAPS IS A MANIAC !!!

DUNNO. THE GUYS MUST BE MOVING SOME-THING HEAVY...

TAK TAK

WHAT'S THAT SOUND ?

RUMBLE RUMBLE AAAUGH!

PERHAPS SOMEONE INTER-FERED...

...

IT'S SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE LAST TIME WE CHECKED.

WHAT ABOUT THIS NOTA-TION?

TAK TAK

C'MON, RAKU ICHIJO!

I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO RESCUE THE MISTRESS!

SO YOU'VE MADE YOUR CHOICE...

SEISHIRO.

...YOU COULD DECEIVE ME?

DID YOU REALLY THINK...

EXCUSE ME?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I'M TERRIBLY SORRY...

...MASTER CLAUDE.

...

SHIT

ZOOOOSH!!

MY GUN...?!

WHA—

?!!

LOOKING FOR THIS...?

THE ART OF BATTLE... THE WAYS OF THE ASSASSIN...

WHO TRAINED YOU AND TAUGHT YOU EVERY-THING YOU KNOW?

WHO IMPARTED ALL THAT KNOWLEDGE, ALL THOSE SKILLS?

YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD TRICK ME?

I RAISED YOU!

...

AND NOW YOU THINK YOU CAN BEST ME?

YES, THEY CALL YOU BLACK TIGER NOW...

YOU'VE MADE QUITE A NAME FOR YOURSELF.

WE'LL DISCUSS YOUR PUNISH-MENT LATER.

I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS.

YOU STAY PUT.

I'M SO SORRY...

RAKU ICHIJO... I'M SO SORRY...

WORMP

I'M SO SORRY, MISTRESS!!

KNOCK

KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK

KNOCK KNOCK

WHAT ...?

...?

RAKU?!

CHITOGE?!

!

HMM... THIS ISN'T IT?

SAYS HERE THIS IS THE ROOM...

OH! I'M GLAD YOU'RE OKAY!

HOW... WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE...?

IS IT REALLY YOU?!

RAKU?!

WELL, YEAH.

I WOULDA FELT BAD IF THIS WERE HOW IT ENDED...

YOU CAME TO RESCUE ME?

TSUGUMI TOLD ME...

...CLAUDE LOCKED YOU UP.

IF CLAUDE CATCHES YOU, YOU'RE REALLY IN FOR IT!

FOR REAL...

YOU STUPID BEAN SPROUT! YOU COULD GET YOURSELF KILLED!

YOU IDIOT!!

YOU'RE SO STUPID...!

YOU DUMMY...

KLAKA KLAKA

THIS IS HARD TO OPEN.

THE KEY WON'T TURN...

HEY...

WE'VE GOTTA CALL TSUGUMI TOO...

RATTLE RATTLE

WE DON'T WANNA GET CAUGHT.

ANYWAY, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

...WITH THAT KEY.

THE DOOR WON'T OPEN...

THAT ONE'S A DECOY.

THIS IS THE REAL KEY.

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT TSUGUMI, ARE YOU?

HA!

AREN'T YOU THOUGHT-FUL!

WHERE'S TSUGUMI?

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

?!

CLAUDE ?!

CLAUDE!!!

BANG!

IF I WERE YOU, I'D BE WORRIED...

...ABOUT WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO *YOU*...

THAT'S NOT YOUR CONCERN.

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, YOU LITTLE PUNK!

YOU STAY OUT OF THIS, MISTRESS.

PLEASE DON'T HURT HIM...

STOP, CLAUDE!!

I'LL DO WHAT YOU SAY!

NOT SOME SNOT-NOSED BRAT!

EVENTUALLY, SHE'LL BE MARRIED TO A MAN OF APPROPRIATE STATURE!

SHE'S TO RETURN TO HER COUNTRY AND ATTEND THE VERY BEST SCHOOL, WHERE SHE'LL BE MOLDED INTO A PERFECT LADY!

THE MISTRESS HAS A PROMISING FUTURE!!

DOES THAT MEAN HER PRESENT DOESN'T MATTER?

HOW IMPORTANT EVERYONE IS TO HER?

DO YOU SEE HOW SHE FEELS RIGHT NOW?

DO YOU EVEN SEE HER?

...

A PROMIS-ING FUTURE, HUH?

...TO MAKE FRIENDS AT A NEW SCHOOL?

DO YOU KNOW HOW HARD SHE WORKED...

HER FUTURE IS HERS TO CHOOSE!!

...AND YOU WANT TO TAKE THAT AWAY FROM HER, YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS TELLING HER WHAT HER FUTURE SHOULD BE!!

IF YOU SEE ALL THAT...

THAT'S QUITE ENOUGH.

CLAUDE!!

TAK...!

I'LL SHUT THAT MOUTH OF YOURS.

BONUS COMIC!!

The Magical Girls return to head-quarters after driving off Dr. Maiko.

Magical Princess?

It's time for you to declare your future policies directly to the Magical Princess, ruler of Magic Land.

Now, down to business ...

Is that so! I had no idea!

She too is a formal Magical Girl, legendary for having vanquished countless evildoers.

Our leader is Her Excellency the Magical Princess, ruler of Magic Land.

ULP!

I'm opening the connec-tion...

All right, quiet, every-one.

Watch your manners now, Kirisaki!

Gee... I'm nervous...

COOL!

And we're, like, her succes-sors!

Wow! She's legendary!

WAAAAAA

PAH-!!

I'm a magical teacher called Yui Kanakura, currently serving as Magical Princess!

Oh!

Pleased to meet you!

This is...the prin-cess?

That's right.

Yes, you're coming through just fine!

Er... Can you hear me?

Um, hello?

That's a bit heavy-handed!

Perhaps we overdid it a bit...

So her appearance has been magically enhanced to make her look younger.

...felt she might be a bit old for the job.

Her actual age is 19, but the Magical Princess Selection Committee...

This is our chance!

He's retreated to his lair now to nurse his injuries.

We've been pursuing him for many years.

Your next task will be to defeat him once and for all.

Magical Confectioner Kosaki, well done driving away Dr. Maiko!

...and let peace rein on p...p... planet Earth!

BA

M!!

Go forth, Magical Girls, and conquer!

Vanquish evil in the name of justice...

SO CUTE ...

You stuttered.

Yes, you did.

Waaah!!

I didn't stutter!!

To be continued!! (Or so it would seem...)

Hey!!
I'm older than you, remember?!
Don't treat me like a child!!
Don't you worry!
There, there. You didn't stutter, dear.
Tee hee hee... Hee hee...
So cute...
Children are such a pain!
Hmph!

N
False